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Yemen

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Introduction

1. The Government of Yemen attaches great importance to the protection and promotion of human rights and takes continuous action to develop and strengthen such rights. Accordingly, the Government hereby submits its third report in accordance with the general guidelines adopted for the universal periodic review of human rights. The report reflects the views of Yemen on previous recommendations and conclusions and its response to questions and issues that were inadequately addressed during the dialogue held in the Universal Periodic Review Working Group on 29 January 2014. The report on the dialogue is contained in document A/HRC/26/8, which was adopted on 19 June 2014 during the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council.

2. This report provides information on the steps taken by the Yemeni Government to implement the recommendations of the universal periodic review. The Republic of Yemen received 191 recommendations, of which it accepted 166 and expressed reservations concerning 25. The Yemeni Government had in fact adopted the content and objectives of the recommendations when it endorsed the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue conducted from 2013 until early 2014, which addressed all human rights norms and objectives, including United Nations norms to which the Republic of Yemen had not yet acceded.

3. The diverse State authorities (the Government, the Parliament, the judiciary and the specialized national committees) took steps to implement the recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review and from the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue through the Committee established to draft the country's new constitution. The draft was finalized in September 2014 and a popular dialogue on the draft was to be conducted in October 2014 prior to the holding of a referendum in November of the same year.

4. As is well known, the military coup perpetrated by the Houthi militia in cooperation with the remnants of the previous Government on 21 September 2014 had a destructive impact on the efforts of the State and society to emerge from the transitional tunnel through which the country had been passing since the revolution of 11 February 2011. Those efforts were reflected in the demands and entitlements contained in the draft Constitution, which the coup sought to abort.

5. Notwithstanding the persistent challenges posed by the coup, which led to the armed conflict in the country, the Government of Yemen has continued to promote cooperation between State bodies and political and civil society with a view to guaranteeing respect for and protection of human rights and disseminating a human rights culture, in line with the obligations stemming from the revolution, the outcome of the national dialogue and the broad consensus on the draft Constitution, and in line with its international obligations and voluntary commitments, including the recommendations of the universal periodic review mechanism.

6. The present report provides information on the measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Yemen during the past four years to implement the recommendations, in conjunction with civil society organizations and with the assistance of the international community and the coalition that supports the legitimate authorities in Yemen. The report outlines the actions taken by the Government to improve the human rights situation and to address the challenges that affect its capacity to promote and protect human rights, particularly in light of the coup perpetrated by the Houthi militias and its impact on the various components of the State, Yemeni society and human rights.

7. The Government of the Republic of Yemen, in submitting its third report for the universal periodic review, wishes to draw attention to developments in Yemen at all levels, including in the area of human rights and humanitarian affairs.

General background to developments in the Republic of Yemen

8. The proceedings of the National Dialogue Conference ended on 25 January. The Conference is recognized as a comprehensive national procedure for preparing a road map for the future of Yemen, producing remedies and solutions for all national issues, and establishing a modern civil and democratic State based on good governance and on the principles of freedom, justice, equality and respect for human rights. Its proceedings were launched on 16 March following the issuance of Presidential Decree No.11 of 2013 concerning the organization of a comprehensive national dialogue conference, marking the second phase of the transition. All segments of Yemeni society are involved, with 50 per cent of the participants coming from the south and the other 50 per cent from the north of the country. Women account for 30 per cent of the participants and young people for 20 per cent. Political parties are also represented, together with the Southern Movement, civil society, the Houthis, marginalized groups, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, expatriates and other social groups.

9. Very important results in terms of the aspirations of the Yemeni people have been achieved at all levels. They are reflected in the outcome of the national dialogue, which produced a draft Constitution the goal of which is to build a modern federal Yemeni State. The Yemeni people were looking forward to the holding of a referendum on the draft Constitution so that action to implement the outcome of the national dialogue and to build the institutions of the new federal State could begin.

10. On 21 September 2014, the Houthi militias seized the capital city of Sana'a by force of arms, assumed control over State institutions and impeded the political process aimed at implementing the outcome of the national dialogue in which they had been involved. The militias plundered the weapons of the army and security forces, took over all State assets and on 21 January 2015 placed the elected President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, his Prime Minister and a number of ministers under house arrest. After President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi managed to escape from the militia and travel on 21 February 2015 to Aden, which he declared the temporary capital, the militia, backed by forces loyal to the former President, bombed the Al-Maashiq presidential palace in Aden. The leader of the Houthi militias then announced a general mobilization of troops to invade the southern and eastern governorates.

11. President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi called for an intervention by Arab States, in accordance with the joint Arab defence agreement, in order to confront the Houthi militia, which had violated the country's constitutional legitimacy. On 26 March 2015, the request of President Abd Rabbo was approved and the formation of an Arab coalition of twelve States, led by Saudi Arabia, was announced to support the legitimate authorities. On 21 March 2015, with a view to countering the Houthi advance into different areas of the country, the Popular Resistance was established and the legitimate Government created the National Army. On 14 July 2015, the National Army and the Popular Resistance, with the support of the Arab coalition, liberated Aden and expelled the militias. The governorates of Lahij, Dhali', Shabwa, Abyan, Al-Jawf, Ma'rib and large parts of Hudaydah were subsequently recovered.

12. The coup created difficult humanitarian conditions, particularly in terms of rising prices for food and fuel, high poverty rates, declining social services, scarcity of resources, and numerous violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. It is therefore imperative for all international organizations and human rights mechanisms to undertake in-depth examinations of the crisis in Yemen, given the complexities of the situation, and to bear in mind that the deteriorating situation is due to the coup and the subsequent military confrontations when assessing and adopting positions on the situation.

13. The Yemeni Government is endeavouring to achieve a just and lasting peace in Yemen. This goal can only be achieved by terminating the coup and implementing international resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), which calls for the disarmament of militias, restoration of State institutions to the legitimate Government, and prosecution of the perpetrators of crimes against civilians, children, women and civilian facilities.

14. During the period covered by the review, three Special Envoys for Yemen were appointed, most recently the British Special Envoy Martin Griffiths. The Yemeni Government, following consultations with all stakeholders, responded to the calls for dialogue in connection with all rounds of negotiation (Geneva 1 in 2015; Geneva 2 in 2015; Kuwait in 2016; and Geneva in 2018). With a view to achieving the goals of restoring peace and stability, resuming the transition, and building a stable political system in order to meet the people's demands stemming from the revolution of 11 February 2011 and reflected in the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue, the Government put up with the lack of seriousness and credibility and the fraudulent behaviour of the perpetrators of the coup, including their withdrawal from some rounds of dialogue and their boycotting of others, including the dialogue called for by the United Nations Envoy in September 2018, which was to be held in Geneva.

Description of the drafting methodology and the consultative process

15. In accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of this report, the Ministry of Human Rights restructured the Technical Committee and took action on the reports and observations submitted by the ministries affiliated to the Technical Committee. Five Technical Committee meetings and three workshops were held. A matrix of recommendations and a request for implementation procedures were circulated to all governmental institutions and State ministries. Official letters were sent to all relevant entities requesting information concerning their implementation of each recommendation accepted by the Yemeni Government, notwithstanding the complex circumstances prevailing in the country.

16. Pursuant to a decision by the Minister of Human Rights, a special team of Ministry staff was tasked with drafting the report, gathering comprehensive information, and undertaking a number of field visits to gather information from governmental agencies and centres that compile official statistics and information. A workshop was held for the Technical Committee and the drafting team of the Ministry of Human Rights to analyse the information, data and statistics and to prepare a preliminary draft of the report. The draft report was reviewed and discussed during a wide-ranging national consultation process conducted by the Ministry of Human Rights. It organized a series of consultations of members of the Government and civil society organizations through workshops attended by governmental entities, civil society organizations, experts, academics, media experts, activists and local authorities from a number of governorates. Note was taken of their observations, which were then published.

The normative framework for human rights

17. The Republic of Yemen is committed to respecting the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the two Optional Protocols thereto, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. It has also acceded to the Arab Charter on Human Rights (a regional Charter adopted by the League of Arab States).

18. The State undertakes to abide by the 1991 Constitution and the amendments thereto as a legal framework for governance, bearing in mind the State's commitment to implement the outcome of the 2013 comprehensive national dialogue and the social consensus achieved on the contents of the draft Constitution of 2014, which reflected the trends of the comprehensive national dialogue and the popular demands associated with the revolution of 11 February 2011.

19. During the period covered by this report (2014–2018), the coup perpetrated against the legitimate Government disrupted the legislature by restricting the freedom of members of the House of Representatives (the Parliament) in the areas occupied by the perpetrators of the coup, especially Sana'a, the capital city. Most members of the House of Representatives fled to the liberated governorates inside the country, and some were compelled to move to foreign capitals for fear of being assassinated by the Houthi militia.

20. Notwithstanding the Yemeni Government's commitment to continuous consultations with members of the House of Representatives in order to hear their views concerning diverse legislative issues, the impossibility of convening meetings of the House of Representatives impeded the State's efforts to align domestic legislation with international human rights standards, particularly those enshrined in treaties ratified by the Republic of Yemen.

Strengthening of the human rights institution-building process (recommendations Nos. 33, 35, 37, 36, 40, 109, 162, 163, 130 and 160)

21. **Building the capacity of the Ministry of Human Rights** in terms of internal restructuring and development of the expertise of human resources. With regard to restructuring, the Ministry established a special Studies and Research Department to prepare proposals aimed at: bolstering the efforts of the Ministry and the Government to fulfil their obligations and commitments; providing ministries and government agencies with the knowledge and resources they require to improve their performance, in line with human rights principles and objectives; and developing, in terms of quantity and quality, the administrative structure for monitoring and documenting violations in order to meet the challenges facing the country.

22. With a view to enhancing expertise, the Ministry appointed 21 experts in the public sectors and departments, including 9 experts from civil society organizations with expertise in the area of human rights and 12 coordinators tasked with enhancing the Ministry's performance at the local level in the governorates and districts, assisting the Ministry in establishing monitoring and documentation teams (volunteers) at the local level to work with the Monitoring and Documentation Department, and managing the financial resources required to provide equipment and tools to improve the performance of various sectors and departments.

23. **Establishment of the National Commission of Inquiry** to investigate allegations of human rights violations in the context of mounting human rights challenges following the coup perpetrated against the Government and the bloody escalation of the armed conflict. The President of the Republic, following consultations with governmental entities and in response to appeals from national and international non-governmental human rights institutions, established an independent National Commission to monitor, investigate and produce results concerning human rights violations perpetrated by various parties within the country, including violations related to the ongoing armed conflict. The Commission is composed of experts, including civil society leaders, judges and lawyers, who are known for their independence and impartiality.

24. The Commission issued five periodic reports reviewing its procedures for receiving allegations and for initiating impartial and objective monitoring of human rights violations. The reports contained details of violations that had been committed in Yemen.

25. **Establishment of the Ministerial Human Rights Committee** to serve as the key coordinator between the various ministries, and between the ministries and other State actors, including members of the House of Representatives, local government bodies and the judiciary. It was established in cooperation with military and security institutions, and through contacts with non-State bodies, such as civil society organizations, trade unions, chambers of commerce, business and industrial associations, and humanitarian relief organizations.

26. **Establishment of human rights departments in ministries and governmental agencies**, in recognition of the importance of the human rights component in various

political, security, economic, social and cultural fields, and for fulfilling existing obligations and the recommendations of the review mechanism. The Council of Ministers issued instructions for the establishment of special human rights departments and units in 10 government ministries in light of the responsibility to incorporate human rights into the activities of the executive branch. Mention may be made in particular of the general human rights departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Defence, given the important action that they take in this regard, primarily in coordination with the Ministry of Human Rights, which serves as the leading authority. The Ministry of Human Rights provides the requisite technical advice and training for the various departments and units to improve their performance and promote their partnership with non-governmental human rights organizations.

27. **Establishment of the Advisory Body of the Ministry of Human Rights** pursuant to instructions from the President of the Republic and in line with the Government's policy, reflected in decisions of the Council of Ministers, to promote an approach based on partnership with various community stakeholders. The Ministry of Human Rights launched the activities of the Advisory Body, which is composed of leading civil society human rights experts and representatives of relevant community institutions, and which is tasked with providing advice aimed at enhancing the performance of the Government and the Ministry of Human Rights, studying society's concerns and priorities, improving policy implementation and service delivery, and promoting the integration of human rights standards into diverse areas.

28. **Strengthening the independence, capacity and competence of the judiciary** so that it may fulfil its human rights obligations, and implement the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue and the provisions of the draft Constitution of 2014. In view of the importance of promoting justice and supporting the country's justice system, the State has proactively pursued these goals through ongoing dialogue with the judiciary and community-based stakeholders. It adopted the National Strategy for the Judiciary, which led to the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, which has been endowed with full authority to administer the judiciary, its organs and its budgets.

29. The Government of Yemen has given priority to the overhauling, maintenance and development of the judiciary, focusing on the judicial role of the courts and the Public Prosecution Service, which must be provided with the necessary tools and capacity to perform their duties. The Government restructured the Ministry of Justice so that it plays the role of an authority serving rather than leading the judiciary, and provides support and technical and financial services and facilities in line with the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Council, as well as other technical and logistical services, such as drafting of bills, preparation and drafting of republican and ministerial decrees, reviewing and amending implementing regulations, and ensuring the enforcement of court judgments. The full mandate of the Supreme Judicial Council (issued in 2013) authorizes it to exercise the former prerogatives of the Minister of Justice in the field of judicial inspection. As a result, authority in the areas of disciplinary sanctions, oversight and dismissal lies solely with the Supreme Judicial Council.

30. **Establishment of the High Committee for Relief** in response to the humanitarian challenges associated with the armed conflict. The President of the Republic issued Republican Decree No. 26 of 2016 establishing the Higher Committee for Relief, chaired by the Minister of Local Development. It is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Public Health and Housing, the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance, and the Ministry of Expatriates, a representative of the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce (private sector) and a representative of civil society organizations. The Commission promotes the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all Yemeni people in dire need, in accordance with the principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality, humanity and non-discrimination. It supervises and ensures strategic oversight of all humanitarian relief activities on behalf of Yemen, provides all possible support to alleviate the human suffering of citizens, performs diverse relief work and caters to the humanitarian needs of citizens in the affected areas. It also ensures that humanitarian assistance is

comprehensively coordinated throughout Yemen and is based on data that identify and seek to meet existing needs.

Recommendations concerning the establishment of an independent national institution (recommendations Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32)

31. The Yemeni Government adopted a number of measures aimed at the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, including the issuance of Prime Ministerial Decree No. 35 of 2015 on the drafting of a bill to establish such an institution. This led to the adoption of measures aimed at ensuring the independence, neutrality and objectivity of the institution tasked with protecting and promoting human rights and strengthening the rule of law. A bill on the establishment of the national human rights institution was drafted. The Ministerial Committee studied the draft in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It was also reviewed by the Technical Committee and Advisory Body of the Ministry of Human Rights, in conjunction with civil society organizations and drawing on other countries' experience, with a view to adopting the draft and referring it to the House of Representatives for ratification.

32. The Ministry of Human Rights organized a number of events and workshops, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to discuss the report. Workshops to discuss the draft were held in a number of governorates, including Amanat al-Asimah, Aden, Hadramawt and Ta'izz. A workshop was organized for members of the team of independent bodies of the National Dialogue Conference, and a workshop was held for members of the House of Representatives. The draft was published and all comments and recommendations were taken into account. However, owing to the events resulting from the coup by the Houthi militias, the draft could not be submitted to the House of Representatives for discussion and referred to the President of the Republic for the promulgation of a republican decree.

Capacity-building, national technical assistance and human rights awareness-raising (recommendations Nos. 87, 71 and 41)

33. The Ministry of Human Rights takes action on behalf of the Government to promote human rights education through various awareness-raising programmes. It organizes training courses and special capacity-building programmes for persons occupying leadership positions in institutions, and for the staff of special human rights departments and units in ministries and governmental bodies and at the local government level. The Ministry also organizes intellectual seminars and events to celebrate special occasions and world human rights days. Government programmes target different groups and the Government pays special attention to the updating and refinement of curricula for basic, secondary and tertiary education. It also works with the Ministry of Information and media institutions to disseminate information and raise awareness of the human rights culture and public freedoms.

34. With regard to the Government's approach to cooperation and partnership with civil society organizations, it devotes special attention to the work of non-governmental human rights organizations, and to support for and participation in their activities. It also encourages regional and international donors to build partnerships with the organizations, and to provide technical support for newly established human rights NGOs.

35. The Ministry of Human Rights endeavours to raise awareness of human rights and adopts programmes that provide for the integration of human rights into the work of different sectors of civil society, particularly relief agencies, development organizations and charities. It opposes all approaches conducive to discrimination and inequality in the functioning of such institutions. In addition, it supports the integration of human rights into the activities of trade unions and professional associations.

36. The Ministry of Human Rights attaches great importance to building the human rights capacity of law enforcement officers and judicial personnel. It focused in the initial stages on building theoretical knowledge and then launched special programmes to develop communication and other skills. In both areas (knowledge and skills), the Ministry of

Human Rights focused on value-based training for the two groups in view of its importance for the practical performance of their duties.

37. With a view to protecting human rights, the Ministry of Human Rights cooperates actively with various ministries, departments and local government authorities in monitoring human rights violations, receiving complaints and reports, cooperating in their examination and assessment with independent lawyers and civil society, and making recommendations thereon. The Ministry of Human Rights issued dozens of statements concerning grave violations perpetrated by various parties involved in the armed conflict.

38. The Yemeni authorities seek to build the capacities of the OHCHR country office in Yemen and to support its potential to enhance technical cooperation on behalf of the various official bodies, special national committees and civil society institutions, especially since the process of implementing the proposed Constitution after its adoption will entail highly important legislative, executive and institutional deadlines, as well as expectations of the launching of the transitional justice process in accordance with the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue.

39. The Yemeni authorities are counting on the contribution of a number of Yemeni organizations that have played a historical role in the country since its establishment. Their outstanding expertise has produced distinguished generations in the area of human rights during the past two decades, and their role after the restoration of peace and stability will have a major impact in terms of promoting dialogue and building a civic and citizenship-based culture.

Request for technical and financial assistance from the international community (recommendations Nos. 163 and 165)

40. In response to the request to the international community for technical and financial assistance, the requisite technical and material assistance was provided to support the efforts of Yemen to achieve economic reform and development. However, the humanitarian conditions created by the coup induced the Yemeni Government to appeal to the international community for urgent humanitarian assistance to meet the population's food and medical needs. There was a positive response in terms of support for the Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen. Many countries have provided and continue to provide relief assistance bilaterally and through United Nations agencies.

41. There has not been a large-scale response to the request for assistance to Yemen in implementing the outcome of the national dialogue, the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism. Further support is therefore requested from the international community for the Yemeni Government's ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, to build the capacities and institutions of the Yemeni Government, and to build the capacity of the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations, in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council and the Human Rights Council.

The transitional period and human rights

Transitional justice, national reconciliation, independent investigations, achievement of security and stability, and post-transition guarantees (recommendations Nos. 8, 34, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 93 and 123)

42. Council of Ministers Decree No. 13 of 2012 provided for the establishment of a ministerial committee to draft the Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation Bill. The text was drafted and circulated among civil society organizations. A number of important steps towards achieving national reconciliation and surmounting the adverse impact of the conflict in Yemen were also incorporated in the outcome of the national dialogue. The Government continues to attach importance to this matter and it will launch the necessary implementation procedures as soon as the current conditions in Yemen have been surmounted.

43. The Ministry of Human Rights monitors and documents violations, develops databases and receives complaints and communications from the General Department for Complaints and Communications. Reports are prepared by the General Department for International Organizations and Reports. Litigation mechanisms are administered by the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 50. Cases that have been investigated are referred to the national judiciary so that perpetrators of human rights violations are brought to justice and the victims receive reparations.

44. Support and assistance is provided to the families of persons who have been detained and disappeared by the militias. About 2,480 persons receive monthly benefits totalling 149 million rials (YRIs).

45. A plan for the reconstruction of areas, buildings and other facilities will be implemented, and a commission will look into land-related issues and the situation of persons who were forcibly dismissed from their posts. The National Dialogue Conference recommended the establishment of an independent high-level authority to be known as the Transitional Justice Commission.

46. The Government provides care for the families of martyrs in the form of monthly allowances and procedures to guarantee ongoing education for their children and relatives. The Government also provides treatment for injured persons. A total of 728 persons were transferred abroad in 2017, bringing the total number of persons who have received therapeutic services to 13,301. A reconstruction unit established in Aden Governorate received governmental support amounting to YRI 2 billion. The unit received grants of US$ 2.5 million from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and of US$ 2 billion for the reconstruction of Ta'izz.

47. As a result of the Government's efforts to achieve security and stability, more than 80 per cent of Yemeni territory has been liberated, and international peace and security has been protected in Bab al-Mandab and the Red Sea. The military and security authorities have made great sacrifices to that end in the fight against terrorism. The Yemeni Government has also endeavoured to clear the mines laid by the Houthi militias and continues to survey large-scale mine clearance areas. Logistical and technical support for such action is provided by the King Salman Centre through the MASAM project and by the coalition that supports the legitimate authorities in Yemen. Moreover, Yemen is a signatory to the Ottawa Convention.

48. With a view to boosting the country's counter-terrorism efforts, the Government approved a national counter-terrorism strategy and the President of the Republic issued directives on 28 August 2012 instructing ministries and relevant entities and sectors to implement the actions specified in the matrix for the Comprehensive Counter-terrorism Strategy for Yemen.

49. The National Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of human rights violations was established as an independent national mechanism pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 140 of 22 September 2012, Republican Decree No. 13 of 2015 and Decree No. 50 of 2017. It is mandated to investigate all allegations of human rights violations perpetrated in all governorates of the Republic of Yemen since January 2011 and until such time as the State regains full control over the territory of Yemen. The Commission has produced five reports since the beginning of its work.

National measures, policies and strategies for the promotion of human rights

50. Such action was taken through the promulgation of national laws, decrees and regulations, the adoption of national strategies and the establishment of human rights departments. The Government issued a number of decisions concerning human rights sectors, social welfare and service requirements. The following is a list of the most important decisions:

- Council of Ministers Decree No. 180 of 2013 concerning the apology of the National Consensus Government for the south and Sa'dah;

- Council of Ministers Decree No. 185 of 2013 concerning endorsement of the matrix of measures for action on items 20 and 11;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 73 of 2013 concerning the review of the Zakat and Social Welfare Bill;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 34 of 2014 concerning the establishment of a committee to draw benefit from the Kenyan experience of safe return of Somalis to their country;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 230 of 2013 concerning the employment needs of Sa'ada Governorate and measures to address the situation of persons dismissed from their posts;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 105 of 2013 concerning the annual survey of violence against women;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 53 of 2013 concerning the preparation of a matrix of measures for action on the 20 items;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 67 of 2013 concerning the creation of an appropriate environment for the success of the National Dialogue Conference;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 210 of 2013 concerning approval of the National Youth Employment Plan 2014–2016;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 15 of 2014 concerning the establishment of a committee to develop a capacity-building programme for the rehabilitation of extremists sentenced to imprisonment;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 30 of 2014 concerning the amendment of Council of Ministers Decree No. 58 of 2013 on the preparation of the national human rights strategy;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 37 of 2014 concerning preparations for the establishment of an observatory for children's rights;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 26 of 2014 concerning measures to implement the outcome of the comprehensive national dialogue;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 28 of 2014 concerning the preparation of a matrix to implement the outcome of the national dialogue;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 99 of 2014 concerning approval of the recommendations endorsed by our country during the universal periodic review of human rights in 2014;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 100 of 2014 concerning ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 101 of 2014 concerning ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 40 of 2014 concerning a review of Human Rights Council recommendations that are inconsistent with Yemeni legislation;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 103 of 2014 concerning implementation of the Government's planned matrix for the outcome of the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 122 of 2014 concerning the assignment of priority to persons from the south in filling vacancies;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 126 of 2014 concerning the convening of a special session to discuss the bills on transitional justice and national reconciliation and on the recovery of looted funds;

- Council of Ministers Decree No. 47 of 2014 concerning a review of the bill on the rights of the child;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 50 of 2014 concerning the drafting of a law on asylum;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 151 of 2014 concerning measures to address the security, service-related and humanitarian situation in Amran Governorate;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 13 of 2014 concerning a review of the bill on the audiovisual media;
- Decree No. 17 of 2017 concerning 100 outboard motors for persons adversely affected by the Megh and Chapala cyclones;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 19 concerning the coverage in the National Dialogue Conference of governmental plans and programmes;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 72 of 2017 concerning support for the sanitation fund and compensation for fishers in Ta'izz Governorate;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 47 of 2018 concerning the preparation and adoption of the budget of Abyan University;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 48 concerning monetary reforms of the local currency;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 51 concerning action to address flood damages in Hadramawt and neighbouring areas;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 52 concerning treatment and benefits for persons wounded in the war;
- Council of Ministers Decree No. 57 concerning the printing, transfer and supply of school textbooks and examination documents for 2018–2019.

51. The Government has developed new strategies and programmes in areas requiring such action. The following is a list of the most important governmental strategies:

- The National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking
- The National Secondary Education Strategy
- The National Vocational Education Strategy
- The National Higher Education Strategy
- The National Reproductive Health Strategy
- The National Health Strategy 2010–2025
- The fourth Five-Year Plan for Health-care Development and Poverty Alleviation
- Programmes to support girls' education
- The National Microfinance Strategy
- A Social Protection Strategy
- The National Employment Strategy 2010–2015
- The National Youth Employment Plan 2014–2016
- The National Strategy for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises 2011–2015
- The National Strategy for Development of the Agricultural Sector 2012–2016
- The National Food Security Strategy 2010–2015
- The Transitional Programme of the Consensus Government 2012–2014

52. Action by the Government to implement a number of these strategies was impeded by the coup perpetrated by the militias and their takeover of certain state institutions. However, action to implement others was resumed, including the National Human Rights

Strategy for the Republic of Yemen, the National Microfinance Strategy, the Social Protection Strategy and the programmes to support girls' education. Steps were also taken to raise awareness of human rights, to promote the political rights of young people, to apply the principles of gender mainstreaming and social accountability, and to guarantee the rights of minorities and marginalized groups in the new draft Constitution.

53. The outcome of the national dialogue, the Gulf Initiative and Implementation Mechanism, and Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) are regarded as key sources for achieving political and economic stability and security, as well as for nation building, strengthening the rule of law, reforming the judiciary, combating corruption, and promoting national protection of human rights and freedoms.

Measures to promote the rights of groups requiring special care: women, children, persons with disabilities and refugees

Protection and promotion of women's rights (equality and non-discrimination) (recommendations Nos. 48, 49, 53, 46, 42, 47, 51, 52, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 142, 144 and 147)

54. The Yemeni Government is committed to non-discrimination against women and endeavours to achieve equality, in accordance with national legislation, by constitutional, legal and other means and through the outcome of the national dialogue. It seeks to promote women's participation in the development process, decision-making positions and economic life. The Government has taken a number of decisions in this connection, including a decision to increase the recruitment of female teachers in rural areas and to mainstream gender in the State budget. Its strategies aimed at the promotion of women's participation in decision-making and public life led to a qualitative and unprecedented shift in the representation of women in the National Dialogue Conference. Women and men in public positions are paid equal wages and salaries, and women are granted special benefits in the case of pregnancy and childbirth. Yemeni legislation guarantees equal rights and equality of opportunity for all citizens, male and female, without discrimination. In accordance with the international treaties signed and ratified by the State, the rights of women and children are fully protected. The Government of Yemen is committed to integrating gender issues into all State plans, programmes and strategies, to the empowerment of women litigants before the judiciary and law enforcement authorities, and to the protection and safeguarding of the rights of women prisoners.

55. The State continues to build gender mainstreaming capacities in the police force and other authorities. It restructured the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, restoring the General Department for Women, and established the General Department for the Protection of Security and Youth in July 2018. It was decided to appoint a female director general to supervise the work of women police recruits. There are currently 993 female recruits and 45 officers in Aden; 132 female recruits in Lahij; 123 female recruits and 1 officer in Abyan; 210 female recruits and 4 officers in Ta'izz; and 500 female recruits and 25 officers in Sana'a.

56. Policewomen play a role in the administration of facilities, including the airport, in the management of women's wings in prisons and of juvenile detention facilities in Aden and Ta'izz, and in the administration of the civil status register and the issuing of passports. They are employed in many departments and administrative positions in the Ministry of the Interior, and perform administrative tasks alongside and on an equal basis with male security officers in terms of authority and duties.

Protection against violence and female genital mutilation (recommendations Nos. 94, 59, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 76)

57. With regard to the prevention of early marriage, the setting of a minimum age for marriage, and protection against violence and female genital mutilation, the National Dialogue Conference set the marriageable age for girls at 18 and anyone who breaches that rule is prosecuted. The Government has taken steps to address legislation that is incompatible with the international treaties ratified by Yemen, including the Personal Status

Act, the Offences and Penalties Act, and the Public Health and Population Act. The Council of Ministers referred the Act on the Supreme Council of Medical Specialists, which is designed to bolster supervision and accountability in the medical sectors, to the House of Representatives. The Council of Ministers also adopted Decree No. 105 of 2013 concerning the annual survey of violence against women, and the relevant ministries were mandated to develop a matrix of actions to address the outcome of the survey. The Rights and Freedoms Group at the National Dialogue Conference recommended the addition of a constitutional text criminalizing assaults on physical integrity (female genital mutilation), sexual harassment, the exploitation of women in commercial advertisements in a manner that violates their dignity, and trafficking in women.

58. The Government has implemented a number of activities under the Humanitarian Response Plan 2015–2018 aimed at reducing gender-based violence, such as building capacity for monitoring violations. Governmental bodies address all communications referred to the competent authorities through the social referral mechanism, for instance by means of psychological and social counselling for victims of violence in public service offices of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

Promotion and protection of children's rights

59. With regard to the protection of children from the death penalty, it should be emphasized that, pursuant to article 36 of the Juvenile Welfare Act, no provisions of Yemeni legislation may authorize the imposition of the death penalty on juveniles. In addition, articles 33 and 34 of the Republican Decree concerning Offences and Penalties and article 4 of the Juvenile Welfare Act prohibit the imposition of the death penalty on persons suffering from a mental impairment. The Minister of Justice issued a decision establishing a technical committee of experts in forensic medicine to determine the age of children who have been sentenced to death. If there are doubts as to whether persons have attained the legal age, they must be referred to forensic medical experts, who submit their views on the person's actual age to the judiciary.

Execution of children (recommendations 19, 20, 54 and 60)

60. With regard to the paragraphs stating that the abolition of capital punishment for persons who have not attained the legal age should be a first step towards the complete abolition of the death penalty, no provisions of Yemeni legislation authorize the imposition of the death penalty on juveniles. Thus, article 31 of the Criminal Code (Act No. 12 of 1994) and article 36 of the Juvenile Welfare Act prohibit the execution of a minor who has not attained the age of 18 years. In addition, articles 33 and 34 of the Republican Decree concerning Offences and Penalties and article 4 of the Juvenile Welfare Act prohibit the imposition of the death penalty on persons suffering from a mental impairment.

61. A number of measures have been taken to prevent any executions of persons under the age of 18 years or suffering from a mental impairment. In particular, the Minister of Justice issued a decision establishing a technical committee of experts in forensic medicine to determine the age of children who have been sentenced to death. Eleven physicians were trained in age determination techniques and 21 expert social workers were appointed to study and analyse juvenile cases and to assist children and juveniles, as well as judges prior to sentencing. Contracts were concluded with 16 lawyers to assist minors at police stations and prosecutors' offices, to defend them in the juvenile courts, and to develop guidelines for prosecutors and juvenile judges in order to ensure that investigations and trials of juveniles are conducted in line with current legislation and international treaties.

Reduction of early marriage and setting of a minimum age for marriage (recommendations Nos. 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108 and 143)

62. The Yemeni Government adopted the measures set out below with a view to defining the marriageable age and protecting children from the risk of early marriage. A bill setting the minimum age for marriage was drafted and approved by the Council of Ministers in February 2009. However, difficulties were encountered in ensuring its entry into force at the time, and the Government was subsequently unable to complete the promulgation procedures owing to the coup perpetrated by the militias and the failure to

convene meetings of the House of Representatives. The marriageable age was also defined in the outcome of the national dialogue as 18 years for both sexes. A bill amending article 15 of the Personal Status Act was drafted. It set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years and provided for the criminal prosecution of persons who breached that provision. The draft was submitted to the House of Representatives. The Ministry of Justice has also adopted a number of measures aimed at reducing early marriage.

63. Child labour increased as children dropped out of school and were transferred by the Houthi militias to military barracks and child recruitment centres. The Yemeni Government is taking vigorous action to raise awareness in society of the gravity of this phenomenon. Governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations have taken steps to promote birth registration by issuing birth certificates free of charge for all children born in the Republic of Yemen since 2007, pursuant to a decision by the Yemeni Government. The Government has also developed policies, strategies and plans to promote children's rights in general, such as the National Reproductive Health Strategy, the National Food Security Strategy, the Social Protection Strategy, the National Basic Education Strategy, the Childhood and Youth Strategy and the National Action Plan for Children.

Demobilization and rehabilitation of child recruits (recommendations No. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46)

64. The Council of Ministers issued Decision No. 212 of 2012, endorsing the Paris Commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups. The State has also developed numerous strategies, ratified treaties and assumed obligations relating to children's rights and their protection, including the strategy to combat child recruitment and to promote their demobilization and rehabilitation, and the establishment of the 2014 Action Plan for the protection of children in armed conflicts, which Yemen signed on 14 March 2014. Pursuant to the Action Plan, the United Nations became a partner of the Yemeni Government in tackling the problem of child recruitment. Yemen also signed the Safe Schools Declaration.

65. The Government organizes training courses for task forces in order to provide protection for children as well as psychological and social support services under the supervision of the Ministry of Human Rights and in partnership with civil society organizations. It also organizes seminars and commemorative events, the most recent of which was the celebration of international Human Rights Day with a view to marking the 70th anniversary and highlighting human rights issues. The Yemeni Government complies with the treaties that the State has signed and ratified. It takes steps to return displaced children to school by enrolling them in schools in the areas of displacement, disseminates the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (the Protocol provides for the transfer of children captured during military operations by government forces to actors involved in the protection of civilian children), and develops plans to raise awareness of the importance of the rehabilitation and demobilization of child soldiers. The Government has prepared project studies for implementation by international donor organizations with a view to rehabilitating children recruited by the Houthi militias and providing them with psychological and social support in preparation for their return to their families. A number of initiatives by the Yemeni Government aimed at providing psychosocial support and rehabilitation for children have had a positive impact on children recruited by the militias.

Persons with disabilities (recommendation No. 153)

66. The State is committed to respecting the rights of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, as a matter of social solidarity, and ensures their access to the basic rights guaranteed to all citizens without distinction (page 173 of the national dialogue document concerning rights and freedoms). Persons with disabilities are highly respected and face a range of challenges that adversely affect their ability to participate.

67. The Yemeni Government, in cooperation with civil society organizations and the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood, is implementing programmes and projects aimed at protecting children with disabilities and integrating them into society by training staff to provide them with services and promote their integration. The Yemeni

Government continues to implement policies to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, in accordance with the relevant treaties.

68. The Yemeni Government plans to implement a number of training programmes for staff of governmental institutions in appropriate procedures for dealing with people with disabilities. The programmes will include workshops and training courses. The Care and Rehabilitation Fund for Persons with Disabilities was established to meet the objectives of plans to provide care and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and special needs, who constitute a significant segment of society. The Fund has continued to provide services and to implement care, rehabilitation and institutional training programmes in line with the objectives enshrined in the decree concerning its establishment. The number of beneficiaries of the Fund's services has increased, and the areas through which financial support and in-kind assistance has been provided have been diversified. They are either provided directly to individuals with disabilities or through associations, training centres and rehabilitation centres for persons with disabilities, including deaf, mute and blind people and persons with motor disabilities. Medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and spectacles, is furthermore provided to disabled persons who need it, and teaching, learning and training materials are supplied to all men and women with disabilities. The Fund supports all educational and cultural programmes, activities and events run by associations and centres for persons with disabilities throughout the country. The Social Welfare Fund and the Care and Rehabilitation Fund for Persons with Disabilities provided funds for 41 centres and associations and for 3 social welfare centres. Permits were granted to 636 new associations.

Refugees (recommendations No. 138, 154, 155 and 156)

69. According to the outcome of the national dialogue, political refugees cannot be extradited or forcibly returned to the country from which they fled. The Yemeni Government respects its obligations under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol and all relevant treaties that the State has ratified.

70. The Yemeni Government bears great responsibility due to the influx of refugees into our country and the resulting economic burden, which is exacerbated by the complex economic and security conditions, widespread poverty and massive unemployment among Yemeni citizens. Notwithstanding international aid and the efforts of the Yemeni Government, the authorities are unable to cope with the increasing number of refugees. According to the estimates of the Ministry of the Interior, there are currently about 1 million refugees in the country, mostly in the main cities. In Aden, for instance, there are more than 30,000 refugees, who are treated like Yemenis, who benefit from health-care, educational, social and security services, and who are entitled to work like Yemeni citizens.

71. The Republic of Yemen cooperates closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UHHCR) in implementing the recommendations of the first National Conference on Human Rights, which was held on 9 and 10 December 2012. It promotes coordination and joint action, and takes steps to integrate refugee issues into the country's overall development programmes and into development programmes on behalf of the governorates that are most affected by refugees and mixed migration. The Minister of Human Rights and UNHCR have paid a number of visits to refugee reception centres to assess the situation.

72. Marginalized persons were represented at the comprehensive National Dialogue Conference so that they could express their needs and the demands that should, in their view, be reflected in the new Constitution. The General Union for Marginalized Persons is represented on the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Human Rights, which addresses human rights issues, including the needs and problems of marginalized persons. The State encourages the establishment of private associations for marginal groups, such as the National Union for the Poorest of the Poor, and supported the establishment of 55 civil society organizations, which receive annual subsidies.

Rights and freedoms

The right to life (recommendations 55 and 56)

73. The Yemeni Government confirms that it is considering the possibility of reviewing the legal provisions that provide for capital punishment, in accordance with the outcome document of the comprehensive national dialogue. Pursuant to the new draft Constitution, the death penalty should be confined to extreme cases entailing the penalties prescribed in the Islamic sharia, which are subject to major and complex restrictions and conditions.

The right to freedom of opinion and expression (recommendations Nos. 17, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 65, 116 and 80)

74. Council of Ministers Decision No. 13 of 2014 on the review of the Audiovisual Media Bill, which provides for the establishment of a governmental committee of competent parties to review the Bill in line with the outcome of the national dialogue, to promote the rights of journalists and to redress some of the shortcomings in the former Press and Publications Act No. 25 of 1990 and the Republican Decree on the implementing regulations of Act No. 40 of 1993.

75. The recommendations of the outcome of the national dialogue include a number of measures that will provide enhanced protection for the rights of journalists and media professionals and support the independence of the media. The national outcome document recommended the establishment of an independent supreme press and media council to formulate policies and develop a media vision, reform the press and media sector (print, audiovisual and electronic media) and provide legal and moral guarantees for the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press and media, and the right of access to information. It would protect the pluralism, impartiality and professional integrity of the media, and would thus protect democracy, human rights and the national and religious values enshrined in the Constitution.

76. The President of the Republic issued recommendations to the Government concerning the release of all persons imprisoned on grounds related to public opinion. The outcome of the national dialogue comprised decisions by the State-building Working Group aimed at guaranteeing citizens' right to express their political opinions and choices and to express their will through peaceful means of action such as marches, demonstrations, strikes and sit-ins, without bearing arms, without damaging public or private property, and without requiring prior authorization. These rights should not be impeded or thwarted in any way, shape or form, and anyone who seeks to undermine such rights should be liable to criminal penalties. The Yemeni Government promotes a culture of human rights through awareness-raising programmes conducted by diverse governmental media institutions.

The prison service and prisoners' conditions and rights

77. The Yemeni Government continuously endeavours to improve the living conditions and the environment in all prisons and to reform and develop criminal detention facilities in line with international standards. Act No. 17 of 2012, amending the Prisons Organization Act No. 48 of 1991, as amended, stipulates in article 29 bis that: "Where children are allowed to remain in the institution with their mothers, provision shall be made for nursery facilities." The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was also allowed to conduct a number of visits to detention facilities and to meet with detainees and officials. The Ministry of Human Rights visited facilities and met with detainees, and periodic visits are conducted to the central prisons and remand and detention facilities in a number of governorates of the Republic. A number of prisons have been reconstructed and additional services have been provided to the inmates. Pursuant to Council of Ministers Decree No. 15 of 2014, a committee was established to prepare a capacity-building programme for the rehabilitation of extremists sentenced to imprisonment, and an agreement was signed with the ICRC on visits to prisons and detention facilities and measures to facilitate their tasks.

Arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance (recommendation No. 59)

78. The Government approved the accession of Yemen to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and instructed the competent authorities to complete the legal procedures for ratification of the Convention. In addition, the Council of Ministers issued Order No. 48 of 2013 on the drafting of a bill on missing persons and enforced disappearances. However, the coup impeded the convening of the House of Representatives to approve the bill.

79. With a view to supporting victims of arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances, the Ministry of Human Rights monitored the implementation of the Council of Ministers' decision concerning the implementation by Yemen of the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and of Security Council resolutions 2014 (2011) and 2051 (2012), in conformity with the text of the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism, which called for the rapid release of all persons who were detained unlawfully or on grounds contrary to freedom of opinion and expression.

80. The General Department for Complaints and Communications was established in the Ministry of Human Rights and receives complaints and communications at the Ministry's headquarters. The issue of independent investigations was discussed during the National Dialogue Conference as one of the 31 key agenda items, which included issues and rights pertaining to enforced disappearances and establishment of the facts concerning human rights violations. The Yemeni Government permitted the ICRC to visit places of detention. A bill concerning accession to the optional protocol concerning enforced disappearances was submitted to the Parliament. Owing to the current circumstances, however, consideration of the bill has been delayed until the House of Representative is convened.

81. The principles enshrined in the new draft Constitution include provisions requiring the State to guarantee the personal freedom of all citizens and the preservation of their dignity and security. A person's freedom may not be restricted except pursuant to a ruling by a competent court. No one may be arrested, searched or detained except in cases of flagrante delicto. No one may be monitored or investigated save in cases specified by law. Torture of a physical, psychological or moral nature and coercion of confessions during investigations are prohibited.

82. The draft Constitution stipulates that persons whose freedom is restricted have the right to remain silent until their lawyer is present. No one may be detained or imprisoned save in places that are subject to the Prisons Organization Act. Torture and inhumane treatment are prohibited during a person's arrest and interrogation, and persons who are arrested and interrogated must be permitted to make statements in their defence and to raise objections. A warrant stating the grounds for the arrest must be issued promptly or the arrestee must be released. The Public Prosecutor's Office may not maintain a person in detention for more than seven days without a reasoned judicial order. When persons are arrested on any ground, their relatives or a person of their choice must be informed of the arrest. The same applies when an order extending the period of detention is issued. The law stipulates that anyone who breaches any provisions of the relevant article shall be prosecuted, and that the victim of such violations shall be entitled to appropriate compensation. The crime of physical or psychological torture at the time of arrest, detention or imprisonment is not subject to a statute of limitations, and anyone who practises, orders or participates in the crime must be prosecuted.

83. The Ministry of Human Rights, in cooperation with civil society organizations, obtained statements concerning detainees and persons who were forcibly disappeared in prisons run by the Houthi militia. The Ministry submitted the statements to the Office of the Prime Minister and monthly allowances were paid to the families of 2,400 detainees and forcibly disappeared persons.

Action to combat human trafficking

84. The Yemeni Government established the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking pursuant to Council of Ministers Decision No. 46 of 2012. Its members are drawn from governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in combating the phenomenon of human trafficking. In 2014 the Government adopted a bill on combating

human trafficking that was referred to the Parliament. The aim of the bill is to combat human trafficking in all shapes and forms, to protect and assist victims, and to provide them with the necessary care and respect for their human rights and dignity. It also aims to generate awareness in society of the risks of human trafficking in order to combat and reduce the phenomenon, and to promote and coordinate national cooperation in preventing and combating human trafficking.

85. The Government decided, pursuant to Council of Ministers Decree No. 101 of 2014 concerning approval of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to ratify the Protocol and to refer it to the Parliament for ratification. A workshop to support the bill on combating human trafficking and to highlight the Government's efforts in that regard was held on 4 and 5 February 2014, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and in coordination with workshops on judicial procedures for prosecuting human trafficking crimes, which were held on 25 and 26 May 2014 in Sana'a and on 28 and 29 May 2014 in Hudaydah in cooperation with the IOM. Workshops to raise awareness of the bill on combating human trafficking were held in cooperation with the IOM on 15 and 16 June 2014 in Sana'a and on 18 and 19 June 2014 in Hudaydah.

General procedures and policies for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights

The right to education (recommendations Nos. 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151 and 152)

86. The education sector experienced major problems in March 2015 due to the invasion by Houthi militias of Yemeni governorates. Following the liberation of most of the areas, the schools and other educational facilities were renovated and expanded. The capacity of technical educational institutions was increased. A number of colleges and universities were established to accommodate students from families that were displaced from their areas of residence and sought refuge in the liberated governorates so that they could resume their studies and acquire academic qualifications. They were also supplied with the requisite textbooks.

87. The Ministry of Education has taken steps to guarantee the right to education, including the adoption of curricula based on the principle of respect for both genders. It has also introduced programmes for children with special needs and children from poor families in rural and urban areas. The Ministry of Education contributes to several special educational programmes for children of refugees and displaced persons, in cooperation with relevant organizations and entities. The Strategic Programme comprises a number of programmes aimed at reforming and improving basic education, and developing and defining strategic performance outcomes for basic education. It also comprises policies and programmes aimed at: improving the general educational situation in Yemen; developing criteria for the selection of qualified and skilled administrators and managers to run educational institutions; applying quality standards at different stages and in different categories of education; continuously improving, developing and evaluating curricula; improving teaching methods; promoting active partnerships between the State, civil society and the private sector; and providing school buildings, furniture and equipment to keep pace with the growing number of students.

88. High-quality universities and colleges have been established to meet the labour-market requirements at the local and regional level. Although vigorous action has been taken in recent years to mainstream gender in the planning of educational development programmes, a range of social, economic and cultural factors as well as the coup disaster continued to hamper the emergence of a rapid and integrated educational renaissance that would meet development requirements, in the comprehensive humanitarian sense of the term, and eliminate the vast and persistent gender disparities in terms of access to basic education and the ability to pursue education at all levels. The Ministry of Education continued in 2018 to implement programmes and strategies, including the National Strategy for the Development of Basic and Secondary Education, the School Health-care Strategy, the National Higher Education Strategy and the National Strategy for Technical Education

and Vocational Training. The Ministry also continued to implement programmes based on the principle of equality and non-discrimination, particularly in the areas of enrolment and quality improvement, development of an appropriate educational and health-care environment, and guaranteeing access to education for displaced children and refugees.

Number of classes at the basic and subsequent stages — illiteracy eradication

Basic 1			*Basic 2*			*Follow-up*			*Total*			*No. of centres*
Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	
75	2 464	2 539	66	2 266	2 332	43	1 645	1 688	184	6 375	6 559	3 759

Number of students at the basic and subsequent stages — illiteracy eradication

Basic 1			*Basic 2*			*Follow-up*			*Basic Female*		*Total*		
Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
1 744	60 300	62 044	1 395	57 559	58 954	887	36 869	37 756	721	8 347	4 747	164 180	168 927

Number of administrators and staff — eradication of illiteracy

			Staff									
Administrators			*On contract*		*Permanent*		*Total*			*Overall total*		
Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
742	96	838	51	54	17	5	68	59	127	810	155	965

Number of students in women's training centres — eradication of illiteracy

	Women's skills										
	Dressmaking	*Knitting*	*Printing*	*Embroidery*	*Handicrafts*	*Hairdressing*	*Photography*	*Rain-fed agriculture*	*Housekeeping*	*Others*	*Total*
Total	**2 824**	**321**	**52**	**413**	**1 160**	**851**	**93**	**15**	**679**	**1 939**	**8 347**

Number of students in basic training centres for men — eradication of illiteracy

	Basic skills										
Management	*Vehicles*	*Electricity*	*Welding and soldering*	*Carpentry and furniture*	*Turnery and metalwork*	*Computers*	*Household electricity*	*Male tailoring*	*Plumbing*	*Other*	*Total*
Total	**166**	**193**	**75**	**56**	**33**	**35**	**35**	**18**	**18**	**135**	**721**

Number of students in terms of gender — eradication of illiteracy

Urban areas			*Rural areas*			***Total***		
Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	***Male***	***Female***	***Total***
952	46 859	49 054	2 552	116 999	119 551	**4 747**	**164 180**	**168 927**

Girls' schools, boys' schools, mixed schools and total number of schools at the national level

Supervisory authority	*Basic level*				*Secondary level*				*Basic/secondary*				*Total*			
	Boys	*Girls*	*Mixed*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Mixed*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Mixed*	*Total*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Mixed*	*Total*
Government	850	690	11 171	12 711	149	66	163	378	437	586	3 076	4 099	1 526	1 449	15 570	17 188
Private/family													58	10	831	899
Local	16	4	540	560	6	1	1	8	36	5	290	331				
Private															4	4
Foreign			1	1				0			3	3				
Total	**866**	**694**	**11 712**	**13 272**	**155**	**67**	**164**	**386**	**473**	**591**	**3 369**	**4 433**	**1 584**	**1 459**	**16 405**	**18 091**

Students are distributed according to gender as follows

Boys' schools	*Girls' schools*	*Mixed schools*	*Total*
1584	1 459	16 405	18 090

Number of students in the Republic by grade and gender

Male	*Female*	*Total*
3 246 147	2 567 435	5 813 582

Total number of human resources at the governorate level: 304,041.

The right to public health (recommendations Nos. 158 and 159)

89. The State has adopted a number of health-care strategies, including the National Health Strategy, the Reproductive Health Strategy and the Five-Year Health-care Development Plan, with a view to bolstering the provision of health-care services through hospitals and health-care centres. It has also promoted health awareness-raising programmes and preventive medicine. According to statistical data, the increase in health-care facilities is not commensurate with the increase in the population. It should be noted that there are positive indicators of progress in health care for women, in particular reproductive health services, vaccinations and obstetric services. Women have access to other forms of health care on an equal basis with men.

90. The Republic of Yemen is implementing a series of governmental measures aimed at improving physical and mental health, reducing the prevalence of endemic and widespread diseases, raising immunization rates, reducing the malnutrition rate and fighting the cholera epidemic. It is also endeavouring to: raise coverage rates for reproductive health and family planning; prevent anaemia (iron deficiency) by fortifying flour; provide essential medicines to health-care facilities; raise awareness of health and population issues; and strengthen institutions in the health sector through training and upgrading of [illegible]. Steps are being taken to boost emergency services, including basic [illegible] services, medical camps, and the availability of drugs and medical supplies, [illegible] primarily in priority areas.

91. The armed conflict and the restrictions imposed by the militia that perpetrated the coup on the flow of humanitarian aid and beneficiaries' access to aid have led to the loss of thousands of citizens' lives. Hundreds of thousands have been exposed to outbreaks of epidemics of diseases such as dengue fever, typhoid, malaria and cholera. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Yemeni authorities, in cooperation with local and international civil society institutions and relief organizations, have managed to step up the provision of health-care services. Relevant data may be found in the annex on health statistics and indicators.

Development, combating poverty and malnutrition, and reducing unemployment (recommendations Nos. 125, 126, 127, 129, 130, 132, 133, 135, 131, 137, 139 and 140)

92. The country has suffered in recent decades from the failure of development policies to rescue the country from its diverse economic crises, which were compounded by widespread corruption, waste and nepotism, and the lack of democracy, transparency and good governance. The country almost broke down the wall of failure through the revolution of 11 February 2011, which raised expectations and fostered hope that construction of the political system could be completed until the Houthi militias and their allies shattered the Yemeni people's dreams of escaping from the cycle of poverty and unemployment.

93. Poverty rates doubled in Yemen during the reporting period on account of the coup and the armed conflict. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen has become one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. It is estimated that about 22 million Yemenis out of a total population of 27 million need assistance in securing a livelihood, while the number of internally displaced persons now exceeds 3 million.

94. The armed conflict in general and the deliberate targeting of the service infrastructure by the Houthi militia severely affected the basic service sectors, leading to a worsening of the crisis in the supply of clean drinking water and greatly exacerbating the energy crisis. These developments have adversely affected citizens' daily lives, impeding their ability to move freely and to run facilities such as hospitals and educational institutions. Hundreds of thousands of citizens have lost their means of subsistence, either because of internal displacement or due to the country's massive economic downturn, and this has had a negative impact on the livelihoods of their families. In addition, the purchasing power of the national currency has collapsed, declining in value vis-à-vis foreign currencies by more than 100 percent. At the same time, the prices of food, basic commodities and services have risen so that the majority of the population are unable to meet their basic needs.

95. The Houthi militia looted public funds, assumed control of the Central Bank, and seized salaries and wages that the Government owed to State and public-sector employees. The militia also imposed illegal fees and taxes, using the slogan "Support for the war effort". The Houthi militia has appropriated the bulk of international humanitarian assistance in areas under its control, either as a fee for the transfer of aid, or to meet the needs of its fighters and their families. It controls the distribution of the remaining aid, basically in the form of benefits for those loyal to the militia. The Houthi militia has also imposed indirect restrictions on humanitarian organizations that seek to supply their aid through other ports, and confines the delivery of aid to the port of Hudaydah, which it controls. The militias have rejected all United Nations efforts and initiatives aimed at securing international management of the port in order to guarantee the flow of humanitarian aid, and to prevent violations of international resolutions banning the use of weapons against friendly States and neighbouring countries and the threat of global navigation through the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab strait.

96. The Yemeni authorities adopted a series of measures, based on republican and ministerial decrees, to respond to humanitarian and development needs. In August 2018 they adopted Republic Decree No. 175 on the establishment of an Economic Committee to take the necessary remedial action and ensure that the neediest groups were provided with the necessary support. The Yemeni Government adopted a coordinated national approach under the Transitional Programme for Stabilization and Development with a view to attaining two key goals, which are economic development and expansion of cash-based social assistance for the poorest families through the Social Welfare Fund. Particular emphasis is placed under the Social Protection Programme on rural areas and the most vulnerable groups. Thus, a number of programmes and policies have been adopted to increase the number of beneficiaries, to encourage and support small-scale loan programmes, and to develop the institutional structure of the Social Welfare Fund and the Welfare and Rehabilitation Fund for Persons with Disabilities.

97. The Government sponsored and participated in several workshops organized as part of the Sustainable Development Network in Aden, Hadramawt, Ma'rib, Hudaydah and Ta'izz until 25 September 2018. The aim was to raise awareness of the SDGs and their

incorporation into various long-term development projects. The Yemeni Government is developing large-scale programmes and plans in cooperation with friendly countries with a view to alleviating poverty and implementing development programmes. It launched reconstruction projects, with the support of the Arab coalition States, following the Government's successful liberation of 80 per cent of Yemeni territory.

98. During the period from May 2015 to May 2018, the Houthi militia seized and prevented the entry of 84 relief and oil vessels, and targeted seven relief and commercial vessels in the Red Sea. They looted more than 696 trucks and blew up four relief trucks, killing two drivers. In addition, they seized 15,815 food baskets, stormed the warehouses of international organizations, damaged 4,000 tonnes of foodstuffs, and prevented the unloading of 11,979 tonnes of diesel and 84,326 tonnes of petrol in the port of Hudaydah.

99. The decline in the value of the rial vis-à-vis other currencies has led to an increase in the poverty rate in Yemen, which now encompasses the majority of the population. Malnutrition levels are also high, especially among children and women, since acute food insecurity is widespread in the country. Yemen ranks among the world's 11 worst affected countries in terms of food insecurity. Unemployment constitutes a major challenge and an obstacle to development. The unemployment rate has increased as a result of the suspension of many investment projects, the dismissal of a large number of workers, the emigration of businessmen following the coup, the seizure by the militias of more than US$ 5 billion from the Central Bank, the looting of State resources and the deliberate withdrawal of hard currency from the market, which led to the collapse of the local currency.

Cooperation with United Nations mechanisms

100. The State attaches great importance to cooperation and interaction with United Nations mechanisms. It also highly appreciates the efforts of diverse United Nations agencies, entities and programmes to promote the peaceful settlement process in the country and to provide vitally needed relief to those affected by the armed conflict. It engages in close cooperation and coordination with various programmes, and particularly appreciates the work of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund.

101. In the area of human rights, the Yemeni Government strongly believes that progress in the implementation of international human rights standards is of the utmost importance, given their crucial role in strengthening the social fabric, promoting active citizenship and restoring civil peace in the country. As the United Nations plays a key role in this area, the Yemeni Government decided to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It is currently looking into the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and of ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The lack of an operational legislative authority impedes the country's ability to advance and complete these procedures.

102. The Yemeni Government attaches importance to continuous participation and active involvement in the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council. It also maintains contact with OHCHR and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Yemeni Government announced its acceptance of the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2016 and September 2017 concerning cooperation with and support for national investigative mechanisms. It also agreed to draw on the expertise of OHCHR, including through cooperation with the Group of Eminent Experts established by the resolution adopted by the Council in 2017. It hosted the Group and their associated professionals and provided them with clarifications and detailed and well-documented information.

103. Visits have been paid by high-level delegations of United Nations agencies and UNHCR, including the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the Executive Director of the

World Food Programme, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the President of the ICRC. Visits have also been paid by the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee, the Group of Eminent Experts appointed by OHCHR, and the Director of the Middle East and North Africa Section of OHCHR. There is also continuous cooperation with the OHCHR country office in Yemen. The State has complied with its obligation to submit national reports to the treaty bodies responsible for instruments signed and ratified by Yemen except in recent times, owing to the complex circumstances prevailing in the country since the coup and the resulting deterioration in many different areas. The Government aspires to boost its cooperation with United Nations agencies and international human rights organizations that are taking action in Yemen to improve the human rights situation and to provide humanitarian and relief assistance to the Yemeni people.

Difficulties and challenges encountered by Yemen in implementing human rights policies

104. The Government of the Republic of Yemen is currently facing the following major challenges:

- The ongoing impact of the coup perpetrated by the Houthi militias, their control of some parts of the Republic of Yemen and their intransigent rejection of peace and refusal to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2216 (2015);
- Implementation of the outcome of the National Dialogue Conference and holding of a referendum on the new draft Constitution;
- The difficulties faced by the institutional structures in Yemen owing to the collapse of the economy, social disintegration and the disappearance of basic services, which has resulted in massive economic deprivation and driven millions of Yemenis to the brink of starvation;
- The food crisis, the challenges faced by the banking sector, and the collapse of basic services due to the coup and the resulting circumstances;
- The rapid increase in the poverty rate of the Yemeni people, which has a major impact on the Government's ability to provide them with basic services;
- Ongoing abuse of children by the Houthi militias in areas under their control, particularly the escalation in crimes of child recruitment, placing them on the front lines or using them as human shields;
- The slow response of international organizations tasked with affording protection, and their weak coordination with the legitimate Government represented by relevant ministries in implementing activities and projects aimed at achieving the desired goals;
- The displacement of families by the war waged by the Houthi militia, its impact in terms of the abuse and violations suffered by children, and the challenges faced by those responsible for addressing the situation and providing minimum living conditions, especially for women.

Conclusion

105. The Government of the Republic of Yemen is committed to all the treaties, covenants and conventions that it has ratified, and declares its unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. It also pledges to overcome all the difficulties and challenges that the country is facing, and to retrieve the institutions that are still controlled by the militias with the support of the international community and the Arab pro-legitimacy coalition. The Yemeni Government hopes for developmental and humanitarian support and assistance from various countries and international organizations in order to alleviate the difficult conditions faced by the Yemeni people and to assist the

Government in addressing the major challenges that plague the country. The Yemeni Government underscores the important role played by the universal periodic review mechanism in promoting human rights and reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of international human rights instruments.

106. The Government of the Republic of Yemen take pleasure in extending its thanks and appreciation to the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and the Universal Periodic Review Working Group. It is committed to taking action on all accepted recommendations that the Council adopts during the discussion of the country's third universal periodic review report. The Yemeni Government undertakes to consider the recommendations made during the review process and to cooperate with civil society, the Ministry of Human Rights and members of the Government's Technical Committee in preparing its response to accepted recommendations and in monitoring their implementation.

Annexes to the report

- **Annex 1: National Dialogue Conference document**
- **Annex 2: Draft Constitution**
- **Annex 3: Statistics and indicators on education**
- **Annex 4: Statistics and indicators on public health**

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Compilation on Yemen

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1, 2]

2. In 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Yemen ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[3] as well as the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, of 1954, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of 1961,[4] the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),[5] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[6] and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.[7]

3. In 2015, the Committee against Torture asked if Yemen had considered ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.[8]

4. Within the follow-up framework, Yemen noted in 2013 that the Council of Ministers had completed the legal procedures for ratification by the Council of Representatives of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.[9]

5. Yemen also stated that the Council of Ministers had issued Decision No. 137 (2012) concerning executive measures to implement the 2012 Human Rights Council and Human Rights Committee recommendations.[10] The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged

Yemen to address previous recommendations, particularly those related to the definition of the child, corporal punishment, harmful practices, education and juvenile justice.[11]

6. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that Yemen was not a State party to either the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, of 1954, or the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of 1961, despite having pledged accession to those instruments in 2011, and neither was it a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance or the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.[12]

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Yemen to fully implement the relevant provisions of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, of 1972, and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, of 2003, that were conducive to implementing the right to take part in cultural life. It also encouraged Yemen to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, of 2005.[13]

8. With regard to the State party's obligations under the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted with concern that the Government's report had not been received. That Committee was therefore bound to repeat its previous comments made in 2012. It also noted that the Government had been requested to provide information to the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards at the 106th session of the International Labour Conference for failure to supply reports and information on the application of ratified conventions.[14]

III. National human rights framework[15]

9. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the challenges faced by Yemen in consolidating stability and security, owing to conflict, particularly during 2011 and 2012, and the continuing severe economic difficulties.[16]

10. The Committee against Torture asked about the amendment of article 26 of the Code of Criminal Procedure,[17] and about the repeal of article 232 of the Penal Code to ensure the prosecution of homicides committed against women by their husbands or male relatives.[18]

11. The same Committee asked about progress made in incorporating the crime of torture into domestic law, in adopting a comprehensive definition of torture and in abolishing the statute of limitations in respect of crimes involving torture.[19]

12. The Committee on the Rights of the Child noted the comprehensive revision of laws, bills and regulations related to children, and urged Yemen to adopt the draft amendments on the rights of the child,[20] particularly the amendments of 2012 to the Child Rights Act, ensuring that the best interest of the child was appropriately integrated and consistently applied.[21] It also urged Yemen to elaborate a comprehensive policy on children and to allocate sufficient resources for the effective implementation of national strategies for children.[22] It further urged that the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood be provided with a clear mandate and authority to coordinate all activities related to the Convention, and the necessary resources for its effective operation.[23]

13. The same Committee was concerned at the reduction of financial allocations in the social sector, particularly in health and education. It recommended increasing substantially the allocations in those two areas.[24]

14. In 2013, the Cabinet approved the draft law establishing an independent national human rights institution.[25] However, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned at delays in its adoption in Parliament and urged the State party to expedite the adoption of the draft law.[26]

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[27]

15. The Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts reported that the conflict in Yemen, ongoing during the period covered by the third cycle of the universal periodic review, had caused at least 16,706 civilian casualties from March 2015 to June 2018, with 6,475 killed and 10,231 injured, but that the real figure was likely to be significantly higher.[28] Coalition air strikes had caused most of the documented civilian casualties, the Group of Experts indicated,[29] and residential areas had been repeatedly hit, often resulting in significant destruction and civilian casualties.[30]

16. In 2017, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that, two years and more than 13,000 civilian casualties later, the conflict in Yemen continued to rage, with an intensification in hostilities that had exacerbated the entirely man-made catastrophe, and children starving and refugees and fishermen bombed.[31]

17. The Group of Experts alleged widespread arbitrary detention throughout the country, and ill-treatment and torture in some facilities. They reported that, in most cases, detainees were not informed of the reasons for their arrest, were not charged, were denied access to lawyers or a judge and were held incommunicado for prolonged or indefinite periods. Parties to the conflict were allegedly resorting to the use of undeclared detention facilities in an apparent — and if confirmed unlawful — attempt to put detainees outside the reach of the law. The Group of Experts indicated that in Aden and Mukalla, detainees had carried out hunger strikes, protesting against the absence of due process, and that death sentences had been passed and implemented in Sana'a and Aden, in the absence of due process standards.[32]

18. UNESCO encouraged the Government to foster a more pluralistic and independent media environment that was in accordance with international standards. UNESCO recommended that the Government decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that was in accordance with international standards.[33]

19. The Group of Experts had received information concerning ill-treatment and torture of detainees at the national security bureau, the Political Security Organization, the Criminal Investigation Department and the Habrah and Al-Thawra prisons in Sana'a, among other facilities under the control of the de facto authorities. Detainees reportedly included individuals perceived to be opposed to the de facto authorities, including students, human rights defenders, journalists and supporters of political parties.[34]

20. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that 27 people had been killed and 76 injured during the first week of February 2018. The High Commissioner stated that the parties to the conflict were obliged to take constant care to spare the civilian population, respecting the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution. He reminded the parties that any intentional, direct attack against civilians or civilian objects was considered a serious violation of international humanitarian law, and that they should take all feasible precautions to avoid, and in any event, minimize, the impact of violence on civilians.[35]

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[36]

21. The Committee against Torture asked about the status of amendments to the laws on the judiciary to strengthen its independence and impartiality in conformity with international standards,[37] and about the implementation and effectiveness of the national strategy for the modernization and development of the judiciary (2005–2015).[38]

22. In the report by the Group of Experts it was alleged that in detention, during interrogation and while blindfolded and/or handcuffed, detainees had been beaten,

electrocuted, suspended upside down, drowned, threatened with violence against their families and held in solitary confinement for prolonged periods in violation of the absolute prohibition on torture and cruel or inhuman treatment. The report indicated poor material conditions and grossly inadequate medical care for detainees. The Group of Experts had also received allegations of deaths in custody.[39]

23. The Group of Experts had conducted interviews, including with former detainees, related to detention by the de facto authorities, and visited Sana'a Central Prison. From September 2014, the de facto authorities had consolidated control of detention facilities previously run by the Government as they seized territory, including in Sana'a, Sa'dah, Ibb, Hudaydah and parts of Ta'izz. They had appointed "supervisors" in detention facilities, relieving existing authorities of their duties or rendering them redundant. Furthermore, they had turned mosques, schools and homes confiscated from political opponents into undeclared detention centres.[40]

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[41]

24. The Group of Experts stressed that there were reasonable grounds to believe that, from September 2014, parties to the conflict in Yemen had severely restricted the right to freedom of expression. In addition, human rights defenders had faced relentless harassment, threats and smear campaigns. Women human rights defenders, journalists and activists had faced specific repression on the basis of gender. The Group of Experts had documented at least 20 such cases committed by parties to the conflict. Many women faced threats from all sides, suggesting that discrimination against women was endemic.[42]

25. According to the Group of Experts, since 2016, in areas under their control, pro-government forces had harassed the media and monitors by censoring television channels and raiding civil society organizations. The situation appeared to have deteriorated since August 2017, with Security Belt Forces in Aden and the elite forces in the Hadramawt and Shabwah governorates intimidating those perceived to be critical of a foreign country and the forces backed by that country. In that context, journalists and demonstrators alike had been detained for peaceful protests against detention practices and for publicly criticizing military operations.[43]

26. The Group of Experts also stated that, since 2015, in areas under their control, the de facto authorities had carried out intimidation, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture of vocal critics, in addition to raids on media outlets in Sana'a. Furthermore, they had blocked news websites, censored television channels and banned newspapers from publication. Victims had been targeted for their affiliation or perceived affiliation to political opponents or for having expressed their views in relation to the ongoing conflict. The de facto authorities had also frozen the assets, including bank accounts, of at least two non-governmental organizations; in one case, the account remained blocked. The Group of Experts was aware of at least 23 journalists who were still being detained by the de facto authorities.[44]

27. UNESCO stated that the Press and Publications Law, of 1990, prohibited criticism against the ruling authorities, unless it was deemed "constructive".[45] UNESCO observed that defamation continued to be criminalized under the Criminal Code and that journalists considered to be endangering "the interests of national security" continued to face persecution and detention.[46] The Press and Publications Law required news outlets and journalists to obtain licences annually from the Ministry of Information.[47] Radio and television broadcasting remained State-owned and subject to licensing by the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology.[48]

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[49]

28. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State party to prohibit and criminalize sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, investigate and prosecute perpetrators, protect child victims and provide them with social reintegration and physical and psychological recovery, and strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries.[50]

29. UNHCR stated that the prolonged conflict and insecurity had facilitated the proliferation of trafficking and extortion networks targeting new arrivals of migrants and

asylum seekers, particularly from countries in the Horn of Africa. Women and children remained at heightened risk of sexual violence and trafficking.[51]

30. UNHCR observed that the response by Yemen to trafficking and smuggling was limited, in the absence of a national plan to prevent and punish trafficking or a functioning regional agreement on ensuring protection, security and assistance for victims. The Government also lacked identification and referral mechanisms to respond to child trafficking, and care arrangements or rehabilitation services for child victims of exploitation, abuse or torture. Children and women arriving at the Arabian or Red Sea coast were at risk of trafficking and smuggling when they moved irregularly into a third country. Kidnappings for ransom had been frequent, and occurred in a climate of impunity that discouraged asylum seekers and migrants from seeking the authorities' protection.[52]

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[53]

31. The ILO Committee of Experts indicated that the General Federation of Trade Unions of Yemen had made it impossible to establish a second federation to represent workers' interests.[54]

2. Right to an adequate standard of living[55]

32. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in September 2018, and after more than three years of escalating conflict, the Yemeni people were continuing to bear the brunt of ongoing hostilities and severe economic decline. An alarming 22.2 million people in Yemen needed some kind of humanitarian or protection assistance, and an estimated 17.8 million people were food-insecure — with 8.4 million people severely food-insecure and at risk of starvation — and 16 million people lacked access to safe water and sanitation and 16.4 million lacked access to adequate health care. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also held that at least 11.3 million people were in acute need of humanitarian assistance to survive.[56]

33. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated that conflict, displacement and economic decline had placed immense pressure on essential basic services and on the institutions that provided them, accelerating their collapse. Because of collapsing public institutions, access to essential services such as water, sanitation, health care and education had been severely constrained. The public budget deficit had expanded since the last quarter of 2016, resulting in irregularities and disruptions in salary payments and interruptions in the provision of operating costs for basic social facilities. Approximately 1.25 million civil servants had not received salaries or had received them only intermittently since August 2016. The salary gap was estimated to affect a quarter of the population — civil servants and their families — leaving them without a regular income at a time of shortages and rising prices.[57]

34. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs observed that before the escalation of the crisis, Yemen imported 80 to 90 per cent of its staple foods and required an estimated 544,000 metric tons of imported fuel per month for transportation and powering water systems and health facilities. Fuel imports had fallen since the beginning of the crisis, and reached only 190,000 tons in September 2017. The closure to commercial aircraft of the airport in Sana'a in August 2016 had further limited the ability to move goods into the country and prevented Yemenis seeking medical treatment abroad from leaving the country.[58]

3. Right to health[59]

35. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated that, because of collapsing public institutions, access to essential services such as water, sanitation, health care and education had been severely constrained. Only 50 per cent of the total health facilities were functioning, and even these faced severe shortages of medicines, equipment and staff. Collapse in the public sector was increasingly pressuring humanitarian

organizations to compensate for the absence of government spending — which went beyond their mandate and capacity to respond. For example, the recent cholera outbreak had forced humanitarian partners to cover the operating costs of hospitals and health facilities and to pay incentives to public servants in critical roles, especially health care.[60]

36. According to the World Health Organization, amidst the chaos and devastation of the prolonged conflict in Yemen, tens of thousands of families have been facing increasing difficulties in gaining access to hospitals and health care due to insecurity and the exorbitant costs of transportation and medication. Poor communities have been hit the hardest.[61]

37. The World Health Organization also noted that the cholera epidemic that had begun in Yemen in early October 2016 had been the largest cholera outbreak ever recorded. By the end of January 2018, the number of suspected cases had risen to over 1 million.[62]

4. Right to education[63]

38. UNESCO observed that the Constitution of Yemen, as amended in 2001, enshrined the right to education, and reiterated that article 54 provided that basic education was obligatory and that the State must do its best to obliterate illiteracy, and pay special attention to expanding technical and vocational education.[64]

39. UNESCO stated that the political instability and humanitarian crisis in Yemen, especially since the conflict escalated in 2015, had had disastrous effects on the education sector. Due to the conflict, students had missed the last three months of the 2014/15 school year, and later, another three months, of the 2015/16 school year. Since then, due to the destruction or closure of thousands of schools, about 2 million children were estimated to be out of school.[65]

40. UNESCO observed that Yemen remained one of the countries with the highest disparities against girls. Challenges to girls' access to schooling had been especially marked in rural areas. Among the root causes of such disparities, early entry into marriage and pregnancy, alongside traditional attitudes and beliefs that girls should not be educated — especially in rural areas — greatly limited adolescent girls' access to education and remaining in education.[66]

41. UNESCO also stressed that Yemen continued to struggle with low education indicators, both in terms of access and quality, and with considerable disparities according to gender, social status and geographical location. Moreover, illiteracy remained extremely widespread, with 47 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men being illiterate.[67]

42. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that nearly half a million children had dropped out of school since the 2015 escalation of conflict in Yemen, bringing the total number of out-of-school children to 2 million. Meanwhile, almost three quarters of public school teachers had not been paid their salaries in over a year, putting the education of an additional 4.5 million children at grave risk. The UNICEF representative in Yemen stated that an entire generation of children in Yemen faced a bleak future because of limited or no access to education.[68]

43. According to UNICEF, more than 2,500 schools were out of use, with two thirds damaged by attacks, 27 per cent closed and 7 per cent used for military purposes or as shelters for displaced people. UNICEF also stated that, fearing for their children's safety, many parents were choosing to keep their children at home, and that the lack of access to education had pushed children and families to dangerous alternatives, including early marriage, child labour and recruitment into the fighting.[69]

C. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women[70]

44. UNHCR noted that the number of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence reported by refugees and asylum seekers had increased. In 2017, UNHCR had identified and provided assistance to 262 refugee and asylum-seeking victims of rape and domestic

violence. Victims were particularly exposed to stigma, while the weak prosecution of perpetrators led to a perception of impunity among victims and to a reluctance to complain. Moreover, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex asylum seekers and refugees were particularly affected by ostracism and intolerance. Additionally, Somali refugees continued to carry out harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriages.[71]

45. The Group of Experts investigated cases of sexual violence in the Bureiqa migrant detention centre in Aden, which housed several hundred migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from neighbouring countries who had been rounded up and detained by the Security Belt Forces. The report suggested that conditions in the detention facility were dire, and that rapes and sexual assaults reportedly occurred in various parts of the facility, often in full view of other detainees, including family members, and guards. Survivors and witnesses described how each night guards selected women and boys for abuse.[72]

46. One former detainee described a guardroom with three beds where several guards assaulted several women simultaneously. Women were told to submit to rape or commit suicide. Others reported that individuals trying to resist or intervene were beaten, shot or killed. At least once guards had ordered hundreds of Ethiopian male detainees to stand naked for hours in front of dozens of Ethiopian female detainees as punishment. Reportedly, verbal threats of rape had accompanied the punishment.[73] The Group of Experts noted that the Government was responsible for violations of international human rights law and, as these appeared to be conflict-related, international humanitarian law. Other States might also have responsibility.[74] In addition to the foregoing, the Group of Experts had received allegations of sexual violence committed by several parties to the conflict in Yemen, dating from 2015 to 2018.[75]

47. UNESCO stated that in 2014, a draft law had set the minimum age for marriage in Yemen at 18 and criminalized marriage under that age, but the law had never been adopted and child marriage had remained legal since. UNESCO encouraged Yemen to revise the law and finally establish a minimum marriage age that was in compliance with international human rights standards.[76]

2. Children[77]

48. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict alleged that killing and maiming of children remained the most prevalent violation, with 1,316 child casualties verified by the United Nations during 2017.[78]

49. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict stated that the recruitment and use of children by various parties to the conflict had been increasing exponentially. It stated that in 2017, the United Nations had verified 842 cases of recruitment and use of boys aged as young as 11 years. The vast majority of verified cases were attributed to the Houthis and affiliated forces. Other parties involved in the recruitment and use of children included the Armed Forces of Yemen, the pro-government Popular Resistance, the Security Belt Forces and Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. Children were mainly used to guard checkpoints and buildings, and to patrol areas, fetching water and bringing food and equipment to military positions; 76 children had been used as combatants.[79]

50. The Group of Experts had received substantial information indicating that the Government, the coalition-backed forces and the Houthi-Saleh forces had all conscripted or enlisted children into armed forces or groups and used them to participate actively in hostilities.[80]

51. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict urged the Government to take immediate action to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by its government forces, reaffirming the commitments enshrined in the action plan signed with the United Nations in 2014.[81]

52. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict stated that girls below the age of 18 were often exposed to forced marriage,

and the increasing number of girls married before reaching the age of majority in Yemen was reported to be a negative coping mechanism directly linked to the conflict.[82]

3. Minorities and indigenous peoples[83]

53. The Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief expressed deep shock at the fact that one person had been sentenced to death purely on the grounds of his Baha'i religion, and stated that the whole judicial process against him had not fulfilled the basic guarantees of a fair trial and due process. It was also stressed in their statement that the persecution of the Baha'is could not continue, and that it would be unacceptable for the Government of Yemen and the de facto authorities in Sana'a to target anyone on the basis of religion or belief.[84]

54. UNESCO noted that minority groups such as the Muhamasheen continued to suffer from discriminatory practices in education. In that respect, Yemen should be encouraged to ensure the provision of education for all and to respect the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in its Constitution.[85]

4. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[86]

55. UNHCR observed that there were over 2 million internally displaced persons in Yemen, and that 88 per cent of them had been displaced for more than a year, with 27 per cent of them living in deplorable circumstances in collective centres and spontaneous settlements with very little access to basic services. In addition, the approximately 1 million internally displaced persons who had returned to their governorates of origin faced serious challenges in rebuilding their lives as their homes and possessions were likely to have been destroyed or damaged during the conflict. Furthermore, damage to infrastructure, the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance in return areas or in areas where fighting was ongoing, the lack of public services, the weakened economy and rampant inflation had left many Yemenis short of means to secure decent livelihoods.[87]

56. UNHCR also stressed that large numbers of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees were at high risk of indefinite and arbitrary detention on security grounds, or pending arrangements for their registration and/or renewal of expired documentation.[88]

57. UNHCR recommended that the Government of Yemen ensure that detention of asylum seekers was never secret, and used only exceptionally as a measure of last resort, on lawful grounds and for a legitimate purpose, in accordance with international standards while giving priority to the application of alternative measures, and that it end the detention of asylum-seeking, refugee or migrant children and provide them with appropriate protection and assistance in juvenile centres.

58. UNHCR also recommended that Yemen ensure individual procedural guarantees to detained persons without discrimination immediately upon their detention, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, that it ensure that UNHCR and its implementing partners had unhindered access to any place of deprivation of liberty, including immigration detention centres, and that it commit to guaranteeing that refugees and asylum seekers would not under any circumstances be summarily deported and ensure full respect for the principle of non-refoulement.[89]

59. UNHCR observed that the Government had not yet incorporated its obligations under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, into national refugee-specific legislation. It noted that asylum seekers might be required to undergo HIV/AIDS testing as a precondition for accessing asylum procedures, which posed particular problems for persons with HIV/AIDS.[90]

Notes

[1] Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Yemen will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/YEIndex.aspx.
[2] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.1–115.12, 115.19, 115.38–115.39, 115.43, 115.45, 115.49, 115.59, 115.65–115.76, 115.79–115.81, 115.94, 115.97–115.108, 115.163–115.164 and 117.9–117.24.
[3] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 87. See also CRC/C/OPAC/YEM/CO/1, para. 42.
[4] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 76 (e).
[5] Ibid., para. 80 (d).
[6] Ibid., para. 82 (g).
[7] CRC/C/OPAC/YEM/CO/1, para. 32.
[8] CAT/C/YEM/QPR/3, para. 8 (g).
[9] CCPR/C/YEM/CO/5/Add.1, para. 31.
[10] Ibid., para. 2.
[11] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 8.
[12] See UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Yemen, p. 1.
[13] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Yemen, paras. 28–29.
[14] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3339253.
[15] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.12–115.17, 115.19–115.40, 115.45, 115.49–115.50, 115.53–115.56, 115.109, 115.124–115.127, 115.154, 115.160, 115.162–115.164, 115.166, 117.1–117.8, 117.10–117.19 and 117.21–117.25.
[16] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 6.
[17] CAT/C/YEM/QPR/3, para. 2 (a).
[18] Ibid., para. 9 (b).
[19] Ibid., para. 15.
[20] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, paras. 9–10. See also CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 44 (a).
[21] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 32.
[22] Ibid., para. 12. See also para. 16 (a).
[23] Ibid., para. 14. See also CRC/C/OPAC/YEM/CO/1, para. 9.
[24] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, paras. 15–16 (c).
[25] Ibid., para. 19. See also CCPR/C/YEM/CO/5/Add.1, paras. 4–5 (a) and 9.
[26] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, paras. 19–20.
[27] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49, 115.57–115.58, 115.78, 115.93, 117.10–117.11 and 117.13–117.19.
[28] A/HRC/39/43, para. 27.
[29] Ibid., para. 28.
[30] Ibid., para. 29.
[31] See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21444&LangID=E.
[32] A/HRC/39/43, para. 65.
[33] UNESCO submission, paras. 23–27.
[34] A/HRC/39/43, paras. 76 and 78.
[35] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22651&LangID=E.
[36] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.78–115.81, 115.83–115.88, 115.90–115.92 and 117.10–117.11.
[37] CAT/C/YEM/QPR/3, para. 6 (a). See also CAT/C/YEM/QPR/3, para. 6 (b).
[38] CAT/C/YEM/QPR/3, para. 6 (d).
[39] A/HRC/39/43, para. 66.
[40] A/HRC/39/43, paras. 74–75.
[41] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.38, 115.42, 115.46–115.48, 115.51, 115.65–115.78, 115.95–115.96, 115.110–115.115, 115.117–115.123 and 115.142.
[42] A/HRC/39/43, para. 81–82.
[43] Ibid., para. 84.
[44] Ibid., para. 85.
[45] UNESCO submission, para. 6.
[46] Ibid., para. 7.
[47] Ibid., para. 8.
[48] Ibid., para. 9.
[49] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.12, 115.19, 115.38–115.39, 115.46–115.49, 115.65–115.76, 115.97–115.108, 115.143 and 115.155–115.156.
[50] CRC/C/YEM/CO/4, para. 82 (b)–(c) and (f).
[51] UNHCR submission, p. 4.

[52] Ibid.
[53] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.125–115.127, 115.129–115.132 and 115.134.
[54] See www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3339253.
[55] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.50, 115.124, 115.131, 115.133–115.137 and 115.158.
[56] See www.unocha.org/yemen/about-ocha-yemen.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.
[59] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.50, 115.124, 115.131, 115.134 and 115.158.
[60] See www.unocha.org/yemen/about-ocha-yemen.
[61] See www.emro.who.int/yem/yemen-news/amidst-the-devastation-of-war-in-yemen-efforts-are-under-way-to-control-cholera.html.
[62] Ibid.
[63] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.38–115.39, 115.46–115.49, 115.60–115.64, 115.97–115.108, 115.131, 115.134, 115.141, 115.143–115.145 and 115.147–115.152.
[64] UNESCO submission, para. 1.
[65] Ibid., para. 14.
[66] Ibid., para. 20.
[67] Ibid., para. 17.
[68] See www.unicef.org/yemen/media_12502.html.
[69] Ibid.
[70] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.12, 115.38, 115.42, 115.46–115.48, 115.65–115.76, 115.78, 115.95–115.96, 115.147–115.152 and 115.155–115.157.
[71] UNHCR submission, p. 4.
[72] A/HRC/39/43, para. 87.
[73] Ibid.
[74] Ibid., para. 92.
[75] Ibid., para. 94.
[76] UNESCO submission, para. 20.
[77] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49, 115.60–115.64, 115.97–115.108 and 115.147–115.152.
[78] See the submission of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of Yemen, p. 1.
[79] Ibid.
[80] A/HRC/39/43, para. 96.
[81] Submission of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, p. 2.
[82] Ibid., p. 1.
[83] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.57–115.58, 115.78, 115.123, 117.10–117.11 and 117.21–117.24.
[84] See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22611&LangID=E.
[85] UNESCO submission, para. 21.
[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49, 115.78, 115.83–115.86 and 115.155–115.157.
[87] UNHCR submission, p. 3.
[88] Ibid., p. 5.
[89] Ibid.
[90] Ibid., p. 2.

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Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Yemen*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 20 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations[2] and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[3]

2. Access Now stated that Yemen is a party to seven of the nine core international human rights treaties. This includes the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICCPR) as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICESCR). It is also a party to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.[4]

3. Yemen is a party to all four Geneva Conventions, as well as Additional Protocols I and II, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and the Conventional Rules of International Humanitarian Law. Accordingly, all parties in Yemen are obliged to respect international humanitarian law, including the principles of precaution, discrimination and proportionality. All parties involved in the conflict must protect civilians and civilian objects at all times. Hospitals, schools and religious sites are protected under international law.[5]

4. Alkarama recommended to ratify the ICPPED, OPCAT, OP2 ICCPR, and ICC Statute.[6]

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5. JS5 called on Yemeni forces to ensure compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law; and to immediately open all land, sea, and airports for humanitarian and commercial flights.[7]

6. ICAN noted that even though Yemen voted for the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017, it has not signed the Treaty yet. In this regard, ICAN recommended that Yemen signs and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.[8]

B. National human rights framework[9]

7. Access Now expressed concern that although Article 53 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen outlines the freedom and confidentiality of mail, telephone, telegram, and all other means of communication, none of which may be "censored, searched, exposed, delayed, or confiscated" except in cases "specified by law and according to a court order."[10]

8. NHRITC encouraged the Government to accelerate the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.[11]

9. SCMHRV recommended, among others, that Yemen implement all resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council relating to the situation in Yemen, in particular resolutions 19/29, 27/19 and 30/18.[12]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[13]

10. ERT noted that as a result of the violence that erupted in Yemen, discrimination and inequality have been exacerbated. Groups already exposed to discrimination have suffered new forms of discrimination. ERT also noted that the conflict has created new groups vulnerable to discrimination. ERT further illustrated that the Yemeni legal framework does not effectively protect the rights to equality and non-discrimination. ERT recommended that Yemen intensify its efforts to end the national conflict; ensure full access for humanitarian actors; cease acts of discrimination; mainstream the principles of equality; ensure that its laws guarantees the rights to equality; and introduce positive action measures to overcome past disadvantages.[14]

11. JS6 observed an increase in forms of regional discrimination. In particular, JS6 holds that residents who originate from Ad Dali' Governorate, many of whom have been internally displaced by the conflict, have increasingly suffered discrimination in host governorates.[15]

Human rights and counter-terrorism[16]

12. Al Karama expressed concern about the counter-terrorism operations by foreign forces. Yemen has failed to "counter enforced disappearances and the practice of mass arrest without a warrant and arbitrary detention without charges and judicial process", as well as eradicating torture and ill-treatment by state officials and guaranteeing freedom of expression and freedom of the press.[17]

13. Al Karama noted that, whilst several non-state armed groups took advantage of the instability in the country to carry out numerous attacks against the civilian population, foreign countries have continued their campaigns of drone strikes against suspected members of Al Qaeda,. Although these counter-terrorism operations are in breach of the obligations under IHL to minimise harm to the civilian population and civilian objects in the conduct of hostilities and may amount to war crimes, they are carried out with the consent

of the Yemeni government, which was officially reiterated by the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Washington D.C. in February 2017.[18]

2. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[19]

14. HRW expressed concern over the exacerbating conflict in Yemen, which has taken a terrible toll on Yemeni civilians, including frequent violations of the laws of war and human rights abuses by all warring parties.

15. HRW stated that the Saudi-led coalition, which has been operating in Yemen with the consent of the Yemeni government and whom Yemeni government forces fight alongside, has carried out scores of apparently unlawful attacks on markets, homes, schools, and hospitals, killing and wounding thousands of civilians. The coalition has restricted humanitarian aid and access to Yemen and used cluster munitions, which are widely banned weapons. Since March 2015, HRW has documented 88 apparently unlawful attacks by the coalition, some of which may amount for war crimes that killed over 1,000 civilians.[20]

16. HRW also stated that the Houthi armed group, which continues to control large parts of the country, including Sanaa, had laid antipersonnel landmines, indiscriminately shelled Yemeni cities with a particularly acute impact on Yemen's third largest city, Taizz, and blocked aid and access. Many of the warring parties, most notably the Houthis, have deployed child soldiers. The Houthis have carried out repeated violations of the laws of war, some of which may amount to war crimes.[21]

17. YCMHRV noted that a high number of violations had been committed, including the killing of civilian lives at the hands of different kinds, particularly Houthi militias and governmental forces backed by the Arab Coalition countries.

18. HRITCD stated that the blockade imposed by the Houthi armed militias on the city of Taiz is one of the longest sieges in history and has led Taiz residents to suffer for a third consecutive year. This siege was imposed by the Houthi militias on the city of Taiz from various quarters and the city was bombed from the peaks of the mountains and the surrounding highlands.[22]

19. JS5 noted with concern that thousands of Yemeni civilians had been killed and injured as a result of the fighting between the Yemeni Government and the Saudi-led coalition, Houthi-Saleh Forces, other non-governmental forces and U.S. drone strikes and ground operations. In addition, it noted that violations by security forces and non-state actors have only increased, as has widespread impunity. Alkarma noted that individuals deprived of their liberty continue to be systematically subjected to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment by all parties to the conflict and many are held in unofficial or secret detention facilities.[23]

20. ADF expressed concern over the inability of Yemen's government to ensure free expression and practice of religion and to protect religious minorities like Christians in their country. ADF holds that due to the fact that the Constitution of Yemen establishes that it is an Islamic nation, governed by Sharia law and that its Penal code expressly forbids apostasy by death penalty, Christian minorities are frequently subjected to tenuous and vulnerable situations. This legal background and the increased power of Islamic extremists caused by the outbreak of the Yemen civil war, has, according to ADF, exacerbated threats and acts of violent against Christian minority groups, in direct violation of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 55 of the UN Charter.[24]

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[25]

21. HRW recommended, among others, to immediately halt the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, and torture and other ill-treatment; and to ensure that detention centre staff act in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.[26]

22. JS6 recommended that the Government establish legal protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and take appropriate measures; and amend the Press and Publication Law by repealing the provisions limiting the rights of journalists.[27]

23. ADF recommended the Government to: ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is promoted and protected in Yemen, repeal all blasphemy laws and prohibitions on the proselytization of Muslims by non-Muslims; take effective measures to protect the right of all individuals to freely manifest their religion or beliefs, in accordance with international human rights law; and ensure that individuals are not refused entry to the country or profiled and discriminated on the basis of race, religion, and/or national origin.[28]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[29]

24. Access Now noted that, although the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, the government engaged in internet interventions including shutting down the internet, slowing the internet speed and blocking certain social media websites. Furthermore, Yemen outlawed the unlicensed practice of online journalism which restricts Yemeni activists from publishing content on social media. Access recommended the Government to pass legislation protecting net neutrality; stop blocking social media and communication applications; and protect the freedom of speech and expression.[30]

25. Access Now expressed concern that, although in Article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen it is outlined that the state guarantees freedom of thought and expression in speech, writing, and photography; the purpose of this law has been undermined by the words "as long as it is within the limits of the law."[31]

26. JS6 recommended that the Government amend the articles of the Constitution and laws that are in contradiction to Yemen's obligations vis-à-vis the basic human rights conventions in terms of freedom of belief and the press[32]

27. Alkarma noted that journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents are targeted by authorities. Journalists, human rights defenders, and other individuals with a real or perceived political affiliation are routinely subjected to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and extrajudicial execution by both Houthi-Saleh forces and pro-government forces.

28. Alkarama documented the case of 29 activists arrested on 12 October 2015 by Houthi-Saleh forces during a meeting in preparation for a peaceful march organised to provide drinking water to the besieged city of Taiz. While all 29 activists have now been released, it is noteworthy that the last was released in February 2017 after being arbitrarily detained for 17 months.[33]

29. Al Karama called on Yemen to halt reprisals against journalists, human rights defenders, peaceful activists, and political opponents, and prosecute those responsible for human rights violations against them JS1 noted that, though Article 58 of the Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of association, the Law on Associations and Foundations contained several restrictive provisions that inhibit the ability of CSOs to carry out their activities and receive funding without interference.[34]

30. JS1 noted that since 2014, Houthis have engaged in a campaign to intimidate and vilify CSOs in order to prevent them from reporting on human rights violations. In addition, they forced several CSOs to close down their operations and routinely carried out raids on CSOs, threatening staff and members of their families.[35]

31. JS1 recommended, among others, that the government take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by removing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limit the right to association; and to amend restrictive provisions in the Law Associations and Foundations (Law 1 of 2001); etc.[36]

Right to privacy and family life

32. Access Now stated that Yemen had no laws protecting the digital privacy of citizens. It further illustrated that there continued to be a lack of transparency and accountability relating to the data transferred through on local servers. Access recommended that the

Government pass data protection legislation, protecting users' data from both public and private organizations; and stop seeking to undermine encryption.[37]

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to an adequate standard of living[38]

33. ODVV expressed concern about the fact that the blockade of Yemen and the blocking of the supply roots to various governorates have prevented civilians in these regions from accessing food and medicine and therefore put the Yemeni civilians under a daily struggle of survival. The ongoing fighting in Yemen has reportedly made 22 million people being in need of aid and protection; three-quarters of the entire population of the country. ODVV noted that the conflict has left more than 22 million people - 75 per cent of the population - in need of humanitarian aid, the greatest number in any country in the world. In addition, due to the lack of access to clean water and high rate of malnutrition, the expansion of epidemic diseases, such as cholera, was accelerating.[39]

34. JS6 observed that the crisis in Yemen was largely caused by military actions of foreign governments, which has led to violations of the rights of the people, including the right to food and health; and that the majority of the population faced severe food insecurity.[40]

35. JS6 further stated that, as of 2018, about 17 million Yemenis suffered from acute food insecurity and required urgent humanitarian assistance. This represented 60 per cent of the total population - a 20 per cent increase over June 2016 and a 47 per cent increase over June 2015. Chronic malnutrition has been a serious problem for a long time, but acute undernourishment has peaked in the last three years. Of the 22 governorates, four levels of global acute malnutrition are above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent; while seven record levels of acute malnutrition at 10 to 14.9 per cent; and eight "Bad" levels between 5 and 9.9%.[41]

36. HRITC noted that the aggravation of the blockade has exacerbated the humanitarian crisis caused by the embargo, which has prevented the entry of vital and essential goods for the lives of the population, the lack of necessary fuel for water pumping stations, hospitals and homes, the lack of medicines or adequate health care for people suffering from chronic diseases.[42]

37. HIC stated that prior to the ongoing conflict, rural Yemen was home to 65% of the population, and primary site of food production. An analysis of the bombing over the first 15 months of the war revealed, according to HIC, a clear pattern of targeting of food production, technical support for agriculture, local food distribution, and water infrastructure. According to statistics, agriculture covers just under 3% of land in Yemen, 1% of forests, and roughly 42% of pastures.[43] HIC noted that the Geneva Conventions III and IV established the legal obligations of all states to protect the access of civilians and prisoners of war to food and water, prohibiting the use of deliberate starvation as a method of warfare. HIC hence reiterated that breaching these obligations constitutes a war crime under International Criminal Law.[44]

38. MAAT noted that the conflict in Yemen has restricted and delayed humanitarian assistance, particularly food, fuel and medical supplies, adversely affecting health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) relief operations; and that fuel shortages have shut down sewage and fuel-dependent water systems in five major cities.[45]

39. MAAT stated that the Yemeni people continued to bear the brunt of ongoing hostilities and severe economic deterioration since the conflict escalated in March 2015. As of October 15, 2017, health facilities reported 8,757 conflict-related deaths; more than 3 million people forced to flee their homes, and an increase in gross violations of child rights and gender-based violence.[46]

40. JS5 noted that the humanitarian access restrictions by Houthi-Saleh forces and the Saudi-led coalition have had a devastating effect on the ability of Yemenis to access food, medicine, and fuel. In addition, JS5 stated that Houthi-Saleh forces, the Yemeni government, foreign forces and foreign-sponsored armed groups have destroyed hospitals,

homes, schools civilian infrastructure and arbitrarily detained, tortured and forcibly disappeared journalists and Yemeni civilians, including children.[47]

Right to health[48]

41. JS2 stated that since Yemeni civilians have been frequently exposed to a wide range of stressors, there continued to be a heightened risk of pervasive poor mental health in Yemen, including major depressive disorder, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. JS2 expressed concern regarding the impact of war on the mental health of civilians in Yemen, end the lack of attention to, and services aimed at promoting, mental health and psychological wellbeing in Yemen.[49]

42. HRITC stated since the beginning of the three-year siege, the population of Taiz has suffered from a serious deterioration in health conditions and a complete collapse of the city's public health system as a result of the severe siege imposed by the Houthis on the city. Small, limited-capacity private hospitals have not been able to absorb the needs of those injured in combat. In addition, the outbreak of Dengue fever has exacerbated the already poor health conditions of the besieged civilians in Taiz. The Health Office in Taiz recorded at least 81 cases of dengue fever during one month in August 2015.[50]

Right to education[51]

43. JS6 stated that according to findings, the percentage of children enrolled in education remained about 60% in schools and that about 40% do not attend school because of poverty, the inability to buy school supplies, and the engagement of some children with work and begging.[52]

44. YCMHRV stated that the deterioration conditions and access to education, contradicts the fundamental right to an adequate standard of living and the right to education.[53]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[54]

45. HRW expressed concern about the fact that during the conflict, women have been consistently underrepresented during various peace negotiations. Since the escalation of the conflict in Yemen, violence against women has reportedly increased by 63 percent, and because Yemen still has no minimum age of marriage, the rates of forced marriage and child marriage have increased as well.[55]

46. In this regard, HRW recommended that the government pursue efforts to ensure the representation of women at all levels of the political process and their participation in public life without discrimination; to take measures to protect women and girls; and to take effective measures to end the practice of forced and child marriage.[56]

47. JS3 expressed concern about the deteriorating conditions of women as a result of the conflict, including reported increases in gender-based and sexual violence, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, and women's limited participation in political and public life.[57]

48. JS3 recommended, amongst others, that all parties to ensure that gender-sensitive health services, psychological and social support be provided, including targeted support for women and girls with specific attention to the needs of IDPs; to ban child marriage and set the minimum age of marriage to 18; and effectively implement a minimum quota of 30% of women in public and political spheres in accordance with the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference.[58]

Children[59]

49. JS5 noted with concern that, even though in its 2014 UPR review, the Government of Yemen accepted recommendations to end the recruitment or use of child soldiers by government forces and armed opposition groups, both Houthi-Saleh and pro-governmental forces took advantage of the deteriorating humanitarian and economic conditions in Yemen

and the large number of school dropouts to recruit children for combat or security purposes. JS5 therefore recommended that all armed groups immediately cease recruiting child soldiers.[60]

50. HRW noted with concern that the recruitment and use of child soldiers by Houthis forces, pro-government forces, and other armed groups has skyrocketed during the current conflict. By August 2017, 1,702 cases of child recruitment had been documented since March 2015, 67 percent of which were attributable to formerly aligned Houthi-Saleh forces. In addition, HRW noted that warring parties have arbitrarily detained and mistreated children, including migrant children and unlawfully held them with adults or used schools in Yemen as shelters for displaced persons or for military purposes.[61]

51. YCMHRV noted that in addition to the established practice of child recruitment by the Houthis, abduction, detention, enforced disappearances and sexual abuse of children and women continued to increase during the conflict.[62]

52. HRW therefore recommended relevant authorities to ensure that children are detained only as a last resort; to ensure no children take part in fighting; to appropriately investigate and punish officers who allow children in their units; to provide former child soldiers all appropriate assistance for their physical and psychological recovery and social integration; and to refrain from using schools for military purposes by Yemeni government and allied forces.[63]

53. GIEACPC noted with concern that the failure to implement previous recommendations prohibiting corporal punishment, in combination with the ongoing political and humanitarian crisis, have exacerbated the application of violence against children both at home and in institutions caring for children.[64]

54. GIEACPC recommended the Government to end corporal punishment of children in all possible settings.[65]

Minorities and indigenous peoples[66]

55. BIC remained highly concerned about the fact that members of the Bahá'ís community have been systematically harassed and specifically targeted in the context of the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Furthermore, the denial of the right to organize as a peaceful religious community, the denial of the right to assemble and systematic campaigns of incitement to hatred based on religion or belief, especially in regards of Bahá'ís, is intensifying their ongoing persecution.[67]

56. BIC recommended that all responsible authorities guarantee the rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the Article 3 right to life, liberty and security of person, and the Article 18 right to profess and practice their religion.[68]

57. JS5 noted that the Baha'i community in Yemen continue to be exposed to discrimination in the form of harassment, raids, arrests, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances particularly by Houthi authorities. JS5 therefore recommended to immediately release all those subjected to arbitrary detention because of their affiliation with the Baha'i religion.[69]

58. JS6 noted with concern reports of discrimination on the basis of religious, adding that members of the Sufi community have had their religious freedoms restricted by groups considered to be religious extremists. These included acts of discrimination and intimidation included the closure of the Gilani Association, which was a Sufi learning center, and the forced closure of a number of Sufi mosques.[70]

59. JS6 stated that the *Mohamasheen* community continued to suffer from severe forms of marginalization and that the situation has been worsened by the growing discrimination at the hands of relief committees and charities, including reports that the *Mohamasheen* have being deprived of relief rations as a result of discriminatory practices.[71]

60. JS6 recommended that the GovernmentYemen to take constitutional and legal measures and procedures to ensure the protection of the rights of minorities.[72]

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[73]

61. HRW observed that Yemen had traditionally been a destination, source, and transit country for refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. Therefore, HRW noted with concern that throughout the conflict, the Yemeni government and the Houthis have detained migrants in poor conditions, failed to provide them with access to protection and asylum procedures, deported migrants en masse in dangerous conditions, and exposed them to abuse.[74]

62. HRW recommended all parties to transfer migrant detainees to centres that meet international standards; stop detaining children and their families for violations of immigration law; ensure detained migrants are granted their right to make asylum claims; ensure the rights of asylum seekers and refugees are protected; and for the government to incorporate its obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention into national legislation and establish a national asylum system; and ensure asylum seekers the right against forcible return to any place where their life, liberty or security would be at risk.[75]

63. HIC stated that 2016 was the year of displacement and forced eviction of the conflict in Yemen, where many of the violations of systematic forced displacement against civilians by some pro-government armed groups and Houthi militias increased. In May 2016, local authorities in Aden organized a systematic campaign to displace hundreds of civilians and return them to their villages in Taizz.[76]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

AccessNow	Access Now;
ADF	ADF International;
Alkarama	Alkarama Foundation;
BIC	Bahá'í International Community;
ERT	The Equal Rights Trust;
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children;
HRITC	Human Rights Information and Training Center;
HRW	Human Rights Watch;
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons;
MAAT	Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights;
ODVV	Organization for Defending Victim of Violence;
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists;
HIC	Habitat International Coalition;
YCMHRV	Yemeni coalition monitoring human rights violations.

Joint submissions:

JS1	**Joint submission 1 submitted by**: World Alliance for Citizen (CIVICUS), Geneva (Switzerland)/ New York (US)/ Johannesburg (South Afrika); Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Lebanon?; Front Line Defenders, Dublin (Ireland);
JS2	**Joint submission 2 submitted by**: Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (Sana'a Center), Sana'a (Yemen); Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic (The Clinic), New York (US); George Warren Brown School, Washington University, St.Louis (US);
JS3	**Joint submission 3 submitted by**: Women Solidarity Network, Awam Foundation, Arizona (US); Ejad Foundation for Development, Sana'a (Yemen); Food for Humanity Foundation, Quebec (Canada)?; Peace Track Initiative, Ontario (Canada); Sawasiah Organization for Human Rights, Little Falls (US); To Be Foundation for Rights and Freedoms,?; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Geneva (Switzerland)/ New York (US);
JS4	**Joint submission 4 submitted by**: Yemeni NGOs Coalition

	for Child Rights Care (YNGOC);
JS5	**Joint submission 5 submitted by**: Mwatana for Human Rights (Mwatana), City (Yemen); The Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic (the clinic), New York (US), Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), Geneva (Switzerland); International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Geneva (Switzerland) ; Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR), Beirut (Lebanon);
JS6	**Joint submission 6 submitted by**: Coalition of NGOs for UPR Yemen (CCSO).

[2] The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

[3] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/WG.6/32/YEM/3, paras. 115.1-115.11, 115.12, 115.19, 115.38, 115.39, 115.43, 115.45, 115.49, 115.59, 115.65-115.76, 115.79-115.81, 115.94, 115.97-115.108, 115.163, 115.164, 117.9, 117.10, 117.11, 117.12, 117.13-117.19, 117.20, 117.21-117.24.

[4] Access, p.1.

[5] HRITC, p.1.

[6] Alkarama: p.7f.

[7] JS5, p.8.

[8] ICAN, p.1.

[9] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.12, 115.13-115.16, 115.17, 115.19, 115.20, 115.21-115.26, 115.27, 115.28-115.32, 115.33, 115.34 -115.37, 115.38, 115.39, 115.40, 115.45, 115.49, 115.50, 115. 53, 115.54-115.56, 115.109, 115.124, 115.125-115.127, 115.154, 115.160, 115.162, 115.163, 115.164, 115.166, 117.1-117.8, 117.10, 117.11, 117.12, 117.13-117.19, 117.21-117.24, 117.25.

[10] Access, p.1.

[11] HRITC, p.7.

[12] YCMHRV: p. 4-6.

[13] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.9, 115.10, 115.12 115.14, 115.42, 115.46, 115.50, 115.52, 115.70, 115.74-115.76.

[14] ERT, pp. 4 – 8.

[15] JS6, P.11.

[16] N/A.

[17] Alkarama: p. 6.

[18] Alkarama: p. 9.

[19] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49-115.53, 115.57, 115.58, 115.78, 115.93, 117.10, 117.11, 117.13-117.19.
[20] HRW, p.1.
[21] HRW, p.1.
[22] HRITC, p.4.
[23] Alkarama: p. 1-13.
[24] ADF International, p. 1-3 (section 1-13).
[25] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.78, 115.79-115.81, 115.83-115.86, 115.87, 115.88, 115.90, 115.91, 115.92, 117.10, 117.11.
[26] HRW, p.3.
[27] JS6, p.13.
[28] ADF International, p.3-4 (section 14 a-d).
[29] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.38, 115.42, 115.46-115.48, 115.51, 115.65-115.76, 115.77, 115.78, 115.95, 115.96, 115.110-115.115, 115.117-115.122, 115.123, 115.142.
[30] Access Now, pp. 1 – 3.
[31] Access, p.1.
[32] JS6, p.13.
[33] Alkarama: p. 12.
[34] Alkarama: p. 13.
[35] JS1, p.11ff.
[36] JS1, p.15.
[37] Access Now, pp. 3 – 4.
[38] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.50, 115.124, 115.131, 115.133, 115.134, 115.135-115.137, 115.158.
[39] ODVV, p.1-5.
[40] JS6, p.13.
[41] JS6, p.13.
[42] HRITC, p.5.
[43] HIC, p.4.
[44] HIC, p.5.
[45] MAAT, p.2.
[46] MAAT, p.2.
[47] JS5, p. 14.
[48] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.50, 115.124, 115.131, 115.134, 115.158.
[49] JS2, p.1-7.
[50] HRITC, p.5.
[51] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.38, 115.39, 115.46-115.48, 115.49, 115.60-115.64, 115.97-115.108, 115.131, 115.134, 115.141, 115.143, 115.144, 115.145, 115.147-115.152.
[52] JS6, p.12.
[53] YCMHRV: p. 1-7.
[54] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.12, 115.38, 115.42, 115.46-115.48, 115.65-115.76, 115.78, 115.95, 115.96, 115.147-115.152, 115.155, 115.156, 115.157.
[55] HRW, p.3f.
[56] HRW, p.4.
[57] JS3, p. 1-22.
[58] JS3, p. 1-22.
[59] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49, 115.60-115.64, 115.97-115.108, 115.147-115.152.
[60] JS5 p.3, 6, 8.
[61] HRW, p.5f.
[62] YCMHRV: p. 1-7.
[63] HRW, p.6.
[64] GIEACPC, p.1-4.
[65] GIEACPC, p. 4-5 (section 3.1 - 3.4).
[66] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.57, 115.58, 115.78, 115.110-115.11, 115.123, 117.10, 117.11, 117.21-117.24.
[67] BIC: p. 1-7.
[68] BIC: p. 6.
[69] JS5 p. 7.
[70] JS6, P.11.

[71] JS6, P.11.
[72] JS6, p.13.
[73] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/26/8, paras. 115.19, 115.39, 115.49, 115.78, 115.83-115.86, 115.155, 115.156, 115.157.
[74] HRW, p.4f.
[75] HRW, p.5.
[76] HIC, p.3.